

HOME NEWS

John Stonehouse is sent for trial and protests innocence

By Neville Hodgkinson

John Stonehouse, MP, gave a vivid picture of the way he views the world in a 20-minute address at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, Westminster, yesterday. He had been committed for trial on 18 of 23 charges against him. Mrs Sheila Buckley, aged 29, his former secretary, was committed on the six charges against her.

While reserving his defence, Mr Stonehouse said that the charges were spurious, contrived, wrongly based, and brought for malicious and political reasons. He attacked political colleagues, the press, "the Establishment", Scotland Yard and the prosecution.

He said: "I do not deny that, in my recent life, under pressure, I may have done foolish things. I may indeed have allowed my idealism and my emotion to rule my actions rather than my head. In 1974 I broke under the intense strain. But I state with absolute certainty I am not a criminal."

His address ended with a flourish as he presented an inscribed copy of his book, *Death of an Idealist*, to Mr Kenneth Harington, the magistrate. He said it would be a memento for him of the hearing. Mr Harington remarked that it was unusual for the bench to accept presents, but he might have a look at it.

Mr Stonehouse faces trial at the Central Criminal Court on 16 charges, alleging forgery, theft, conspiracy and deception, and two charges of making false statements to obtain legal aid. He was discharged on five charges relating to alleged insurance frauds, for which Mr Harington said there was prima facie evidence of intent but not of any actual attempt for the money to be collected. Mrs Buckley faces six charges jointly with Mr Stonehouse concerning fraud and conspiracy to defraud.

Bail of £30,000 for Mr Stonehouse and £500 for Mrs Buckley was renewed, and Mr Stonehouse was ordered to report to the police each Friday until the trial takes place, probably early next year.

In his address, Mr Stonehouse said he was innocent of the charges. He said he had never had any intention of breaking laws. Instead of receiving psychiatric help from those he had served for two decades, there were laughter, and torture, and two hard-faced policemen "so convinced of my criminality that they did not pay me the ordinary decency of asking for my explanation."

He said there had been malice from the establishment in its timing of the approval for lay charges, and the early refusal of bail: "I was a man from Scotland Yard and sections of the press in the coordination of 'stories' designed to bring the defendant into disrepute and to convict him before his trial."

Speaking in Brussels, Mr Stonehouse said he was going to pay for an extra layer of government, in the form of an assembly, if the Scottish regions were not tampered with, and 71 Scottish MPs were maintained at Westminster.

Three opponents of devolution among Welsh Labour members, led by Mr Alfred Evans, MP for Caerphilly, have put down a Commons motion calling for a referendum in Wales on the subject before any Bill is presented to the House.

The date for the publication of the White Paper on devolution has yet to be announced. Mr Evans said that the Labour MP for West Lothian, Mr Tom Fothergill, had replied yesterday to the call from Mr Tom Fothergill, chairman of the party's Scottish executive, to adhere to the party line.

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30 Labour MPs call for regional assemblies

By Our Political Staff

Demands that more power should be devolved to the English regions were strengthened yesterday when 30 English Labour MPs tabled a Commons motion calling for elected regional assemblies for the whole of Great Britain.

The MPs represented a fair cross-section of the party, and included Mr Eric Heffer, MP for Liverpool, Walton, Mr John Tomlinson, MP for Meriden, and Mr Joseph Dean, MP for Leeds, West.

Fears are growing among Liberal MPs that the present devolution plans would place power in the hands of the Scottish National Party. They are re-iterating their demand that the elections to the assembly should be based on proportional representation.

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Tour companies' surcharges at airports and late cancellations

From Patricia Tisdall, Miami Beach, Florida

Amendments to the tour operators' code of conduct to give holidaymakers greater protection were announced at the convention of the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) at Miami Beach yesterday. They came under pressure from the Office of Fair Trading.

The changes do not cover all the points demanded by Mr John Methven, the office's director-general, but according to Mr Harry Chandler, chairman of the tour operators' council, they go a long way.

The main area of difference between the tour operators and the Office of Fair Trading is on late holiday surcharges. The operators say they cannot collectively guarantee holiday insurance 30 days before departure.

That is because airlines and hotels can impose additional charges, at only a few days' notice or even more.

However, the code, which comes into effect on January 1, next, does not allow for such charges. That has been a source of annoyance to operators and clients.

The code also forbids cancellation of holiday by operators which full payments have been made for. An official due from the Office of Fair Trading said the changes in the code were expected to help consumers in preventing complaints.

In cases where hotels are overbooked, a clause has been added to the code, which the client "disturbance" compensation if an inferior alternative is offered.

British holidaymakers have been protesting against the extreme surcharges at the beginning of the week. The employers rejected union requests backdated it to June.

Unions were reminded by employers at the joint meeting that the cost of the settlement might affect local authorities' services and that might jeopardise job prospects.

The need for stability in housing finance was emphasized by Mr M. Campbell Lee, president of the Institute of Housing Managers, in an address to the institute's annual conference in Brighton yesterday.

Speaking of recent economies in mortgages and improvements, Mr Lee said: "It cannot aid the long-term goal of achieving adequate housing for the whole community if there are frequent changes in housing finance."

Authorities, he argued, should be able to plan confident that the system will not be changed during a plan's currency and not be curtailed. They should have more discretion over housing.

In order that democratic local government might continue to be responsive to changing local needs and circumstances, it was of fundamental importance that it should retain a large measure of discretion over the number, type, location and location of housing provided.

Mr Lee complained of the restrictions placed on local authorities by the housing cost controls, which he wanted abolished, and improvements to council-owned homes. The cut in improvements, under the Housing Act, 1974, was the most serious, as with one breath the Government tells us "don't demolish any houses; improve them with the next sorry, but we can't give you any money to improve."

He defended local housing officers against criticism. "So often the housing man is the scapegoat for the architects and planners get us into. We have the problem for government."

Mr Raymond Carter, Labour MP for Birmingham, Northfield, said yesterday that a defamation action brought against him by the St Christopher Motorists' Association had been dismissed. The Queen's Bench Division of the High Court dismissed the association's action "for want of prosecution by the plaintiffs."

Mr Carter said all his expenses had been paid and the association, now in members' voluntary liquidation, had changed its name. Defendants with Mr Carter were Alastair Hetherington and The Guardian Newspaper Ltd.

Slaves of the House of Commons, said a clerk to the Central Lobby of the House of Commons to serve the writ in the action on Mr Carter in December, 1972. The Commons Committee of Privileges later ruled that the writ was an affront to the House and a contempt was committed.

A resolution calling for a new electoral strategy is to be debated at the annual congress of the Communist Party of Great Britain, London, on November 15-18. It asks the party to campaign more vigorously for the introduction of proportional representation, and for the allocation of broadcasting time to the communists.

Amendments sent in by branches emphasize that the party should fight the next general election on the basis of the activity, strength and organization within particular constituencies.

The daughter of Mr Toby Jessel, Conservative MP for Richmond upon Thames, Twickenham, was critically ill with head injuries in an intensive care unit yesterday after a crash on the M4 the day before. Sara Jessel, who is five today, was a passenger in a hire car being driven by her mother, Mrs Philippa Jessel, the MP's former wife.

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Detainee's child shot by accident

A boy aged three was shot in the head in Belfast yesterday while playing with a loaded revolver he had found in the street outside his home.

Andrew Fennell found the gun under a car in Crocus Street, Beechmount. His mother, Mrs Elizabeth Fennell, saw him pick it up, but as she ran towards him he put it to his face and fired. He was seriously ill in hospital last night.

Mr Andrew Fennell, the boy's father, has been granted three days' compassionate parole from the Maze prison at Long Kesh, where he is a detainee.

Not far from where the boy was shot a dog was blown to pieces when it picked up an abandoned blast bomb.

A bomb wrecked a public house at the busy Springfield Falls Road junction in west Belfast late yesterday afternoon. Although damage to the bar

was described as extensive there were no casualties. Security forces had received a warning and evacuated the premises.

Mr. Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Dr. Fitzgerald, the Irish Foreign Minister, met for talks over breakfast at the Irish Embassy in London yesterday. A spokesman said: "It was just to review the political situation. They meet fairly frequently. If Dr. Fitzgerald is going through London he and Mr. Rees generally meet."

Later it was announced from Stormont Castle that Mr. Rees was releasing 20 more detainees from the Maze prison.

There are now 153 people still in detention. Since December 22 last year, the Maze has released 424 people have been released. Those freed yesterday were republicans.

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Schools' racial priorities criticized

By Clifford Longley

Religious Affairs Correspondent

Roman Catholic primary and secondary schools are taking less than their share of Asian and West Indian children, according to a survey published today.

The survey, prepared for the Commission for Racial Justice of the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, is likely to be on the agenda of next week's conference.

The commission points out that Roman Catholics make up a smaller proportion of the coloured population than of the white population, but finds evidence that coloured Roman Catholics are less likely than white parents to send their children to Catholic schools.

It recommends that church schools should make them available to non-Roman Catholic coloured children. Arrangements would have to be made to see that their religious feelings were respected, and their religious education provided for within their own faith. That has been done in Birmingham, where 700 places at Roman Catholic schools were put at the disposal of the local education for Asian children.

The survey found signs of hostility on the part of some priests and Roman Catholic head teachers. One coloured mother came away from a school meeting with the impression that "only the Irish need apply."

Chairmen of school management committees, usually parish priests, generally opposed the idea of racial harmony taking priority over religious preference in the criteria for selecting pupils. The commission argues that a mixing of races and even faiths is important in education.

Care should be taken to respect the practices of Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs. Roman Catholic children would gain an insight into non-Christian religions "which hold so much in common with our own, in terms of values and symbolism."

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Gas corporation signs 'closed shop' agreement

By Our Labour Editor

A "closed shop" agreement of the kind that led to the dismissal of six men from Ferrybridge power station for not belonging to an "appropriate" trade union has been negotiated in the gas industry.

All new employees with the British Gas Corporation must join one of the two recognized unions. Union officials are holding talks with local management to identify the 1,000 to 1,500 non-unionists believed to be working for the corporation.

The agreement, covering about 40,000 workers, has been signed between British Gas and the General and Municipal Workers' Union and the Transport and General Workers' Union. The deal has been in operation for several months but it has not been publicized.

New entrants to full-time employment must join one of the two unions within 30 days, and others are to be "encouraged by the employer" to join.

Jail for four bank robbers

Four men were jailed at the High Court in Glasgow yesterday for an armed raid on the Clydesdale Bank at Aikhead Road on July 24, when £4,072 was taken.

William Thomson, aged 27, received the heaviest sentence of 10 years, and David McKenna, aged 24; Ronald McDonald, aged 23; and Edward Caffola, aged 23, were each jailed for nine years.

Councils agree £6 rise for building workers

A 55-a-week pay rise for 90,000 building workers

planned by local authorities was agreed in London yesterday. The agreement, similar to the recent settlement for other council manual workers, is in line with government policy. It will cost £23m in a full year and add 11 per cent to the wages bill.

Unions were reminded by employers at the joint meeting that the cost of the settlement might affect local authorities' services and that might jeopardise job prospects.

The need for stability in housing finance was emphasized by Mr M. Campbell Lee, president of the Institute of Housing Managers, in an address to the institute's annual conference in Brighton yesterday.</

HOME NEWS

Universities' research cuts 'will be beneficial'

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

The difficulties in universities caused through research cuts to meet the squeeze on public expenditure will ultimately have beneficial effects, the Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology was told yesterday.

The seemingly paradoxical view was presented in evidence from representatives of the Confederation of British Industry. They were Sir Peter Matthews, managing director and chief executive of Vickers and deputy chairman, British Steel Corporation; Dr D. S. Davies, general manager, research and development, ICI; Mr T. Dean, university liaison officer, British Aircraft Corporation; and Dr D. W. Budworth, of the CBI's research and technology committee.

Although expressing sympathy about the state of the industry, the level of spending on research and development, industry took the view that the solution to the difficulties lay in a readjustment to the strained circumstances of the nation, rather than in a return to former levels of financial support.

During the past few years direct support from industry on extramural research has dropped from £13.5m to £10.5m, and this is below £5.5m, representing a big drop in real terms.

Dr Budworth said the basic difference between university and industrial research could be described in a single word: "scale". In industry, research was designed to make a contribution to the business. That might be work described as applied research in some definitions and pure research by others.

University research also made a contribution to university business, but that was a different type of activity related to teaching and the other roles of those institutions. Dr Budworth said the CBI regarded research as a vital part of university activity, but emphasized the importance of its quality rather than quantity.

The CBI thought it was essential for universities to take a detached, disinterested, but informed and critical view of the state of development of a science or technology and to advance it in such a way as seemed appropriate.

However, industry was interested in the training of people and the retention of research staffs.

The CBI evidence said that on the basis of experience in industry it expected that university research would ultimately benefit from a reappraisal of their research activities in the light of the present financial limitations.

Doubts over power station's future affect 2,000 pit jobs

From Trevor Fishlock,
Cardiff

The jobs of about two thousand Welsh miners have been put in the balance by doubts over the future of a coalfield power station supplied by nine pits in South Wales.

Miners and the National Coal Board fear that the Central Electricity Generating Board may decide not to go ahead with a £13m repair to a fire-damaged generator. That would cut the power station's demand by 20,000 tons a week and might lead to the closure of three or four pits.

Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, is to be urged by the National Union of Mineworkers and the coal board to approach the electricity board on the matter.

The power station, Aberthaw B, on the Glamorgan coast, was opened in the mid-1960s to take advantage of fuel from the coalfield nearby. Production has been geared to meet the station's needs. The Welsh steam coal is unsuitable for other power stations unless blended with other coal.

Fears for care of the elderly

By John Roper

Redistribution of resources within the National Health Service may still leave the less glamorous fields of care of the elderly and the mentally ill no better off, Professor Walter Holland, head of the clinical epidemiology and social medicine unit at St Thomas' Hospital, London, said yesterday. He is a member of the Government working party on the resource allocation which has just published its interim report on allocation to regions in 1976-77.

Political ideology could do much to destroy attempts to develop services and a more rational attitude towards distribution, he said. In answer to a question, he said that opinion applied to doctors as well as politicians.

It was more important to try to redistribute resources to programmes that were likely to be effective than to areas that were supposed not to have facilities.

The issue, he told a lunchtime session of the Medical Journalists' Association, was what proportion of resources should be spent on curing and what proportion on caring and prevention. People today expected health almost as of right.

The phased introduction of the new option that emerged from a nine-hour meeting with Mrs Castle, Secretary of State

for Social Services, last week, and is the one that appears to be favoured by the juniors' negotiators.

They argue that if a majority wishes to introduce a new contract, a partial introduction immediately is the best available guarantee.

Between 100 and 150 junior doctors in Fife decided to stage a 24-hour strike today. Those in the North-west said that those in the North-east would be treated promptly. Those at the Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital gave notice of a second 24-hour strike today. It was decided to hold a 24-hour strike at Galsworthy Hospital, in Coventry area, on Monday, in protest mainly at long hours.

Nearly a hundred junior doctors at Northampton voted to tender their resignations from January 1 if a favourable settlement is not reached. More than forty doctors at hospitals in King's Lynn and Wisbech decided that from today they will handle only emergency cases.

Junior doctors from hospitals in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire agreed on mass resignations from the National Health Service unless they get satisfaction. Those at 25 hospitals in the north-west Thames region decided to continue indefinitely dealing with emergencies only.

Junior doctors given three choices

By Our Medical Reporter

Junior hospital doctors were warned by their leaders yesterday that industrial action would be unlikely to succeed without widespread support and "determination to continue as long as necessary, no matter what".

The warning was in a commentary from the Hospital Junior Staffs Committee, which was sent out with ballot papers presenting the options available to the 19,000 juniors. To have a fair prospect of success industrial action also needed defined objectives and an effective majority in favour of it, it said.

Sustained industrial action until the Government provides more money is one of the three basic options. The others are to accept the new contract or reject it and stay with the old contract.

If the juniors accept the new government proposals three courses are open to them. The contract can be introduced at once, which means pay cuts for about a third of the juniors but extra money for more than half; it can be postponed until next April, when more money will be available; or there can be a phased introduction under which a doctor would take the new contract when he changed his post, with a "no detriment" clause added from next April.

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Inquiry ends with steel dispute unresolved

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Staff

Talks in the dispute at Llanwern steelworks, South Wales, which has prevented the opening of Britain's biggest blast furnace, remained deadlocked yesterday at the end of a two-day public inquiry in London.

Sir Richard Way, chairman of the inquiry, suggested that the National Union of Blastfurnacemen (NUB) might consider operating the £72m furnace pending the inquiry report, which will take several weeks.

Union officials had told the inquiry that they would not lower their claim for £115 a week for keepers of the furnace, and the British Steel Corporation said it could not go beyond its £85 offer because that would change wage relativities and cause a cascade of claims throughout the industry.

A picture of frustration and suspicion among management and workers emerged. Management said there was constant niggling and challenging of decisions by unions and the NUB accused management of deliberately inciting disputes.

Mr Gordon Sambrook, managing director, personnel, social and regional policy, told the inquiry: "The social scene has changed. Management ideas are questioned and so are those of union officers. Some of the established union which we were familiar has changed."

Mr Hector Smith, secretary of the NUB, said the union had failed in negotiations to get through to the management: "Now we have seen the movements that have gone on in other areas there is only one thing to do, and that is to bang the table and show that we can make threats at will."

"We feel strongly that our claim is justifiable. We are anxious to get the furnace into operation as soon as possible. We are going to stand firmly until we get the recognition we rightly deserve."

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Nato states to set up arms standardizations and sales organizations

From Our Correspondent
The Hague, Nov 5

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At the same time an independent arms sales forum to back Europe's sales drive in America is to be set up.

The ministers also decided to establish a working party, whose terms of reference have yet to be defined, but which would be charged with the task of assembling and coordinating information on future Nato military equipment requirements.

Coordination and rationalization, the Nato ministers agreed, was meaningless without French participation. The secretaries would be charged with the task of assembling and coordinating information on future Nato military equipment requirements.

The French Defence Minister did not attend the Hague meeting.

Mr Georges Leber, the West German Defence Minister, said on leaving the conference after the morning talks: "First we have to talk to France. Once Europe has a common policy, we can then go on to talking to the United States." The French are believed to be giving a cautious welcome to the idea of the new secretariat and working group.

The meeting in The Hague, called by the initiative of Mr Benk Vredeling, the Dutch Defence Minister, was aimed at discussing ways of improving arms standardization.

The ministers urged West Europe to come to a decision on equipment planning more effectively than up to now. The effective participation of countries with less well developed defence industries should be encouraged, they said.

The initial task of the secretariat will be to provide a centre for the collection of information on future military equipment requirements. A long-term study is to be commissioned later.

Once France is involved in the project, a better balance of defence equipment sales and purchases between Europe and North America could be established.

The ministers agreed to propose to the United States and Canada that a dialogue should be opened in the near future.

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Sir Peter, a former Chief of the Defence Staff, said the West's ability to defend itself was greatly weakened by the lines drawn on its map, including one at the Tropic of Cancer. Nato had no licence to make military plans to deal with threats south of that line, even though the bulk of the supplies of commodities on which the West depended had to come via the Cape of Good Hope. There were no such lines on Russian maps, he pointed out.

He suggested that the three or four Nato members with "blue water" navies, including Britain, could combine in a group outside the alliance's framework to monitor, when going on in the Indian Ocean, where the Soviet naval presence represented a serious threat to the West's lines of communication. In this way a Nato area of interest could be established in addition to Europe.

Sir Peter warned the alliance that unilateral reductions in Nato's conventional forces not only increased the possibility of "opposition" to any such move, but also reduced the threshold by making a resort to nuclear weapons necessary earlier on.

Furthermore, Nato forces were badly deployed: adoption of the strategy of the flexible response had not been accompanied by the moving of troops further forward. Recent withdrawals by the Dutch, Belgian, Canadian and British forces meant that Nato troops were even further from the likely scene of action, Sir Peter asserted.

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The case was brought by a former member of the Saarland parliament. The court left it up to the legislators themselves to determine when they should start to pay tax. In fairness to the Bundestag deputies, they were not to pay tax on their basic allowances though, this has not been put into effect yet. They also voted last month to deny themselves a pay rise as an example to the country.

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WEST EUROPE

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OVERSEAS

Sadat seeks help from America to establish a Palestinian state

Patrick Brogan
London, Nov 5

President Sadat of Egypt urged the United States to take a sympathetic stand on the aspirations of the Palestinians to their own state. For to do so, he said, would be greatly to a speedy

President, addressing a session of Congress, said that the Palestinians suffered occasionally from a lack of political voice. They feel, not without justification, that they have been neglected by the United States.

He said that the United States had almost alone in disavowing the Palestinians. He said that the Palestinians would bring under which in turn would help solutions.

President Sadat said that he had favoured signs in and observed: "Still, I cannot be done, and I must wait long. I urge the most emphatic terms, the Palestinian people understanding and sup-

them to overcome their frustration. The consequences of neglect and disavowal are a lack of confidence, negativism and so on."

Sadat was warmly welcomed when he entered the House of Representatives. He presided over a full session, including most of the doors in Washington, the Israeli ambassador and of the Cabinet. Dr. Ger, who was dismissed as Secretary of Defense on Sunday, was conspicuously absent.

President Sadat said that the Egyptians were ready to compromise on independence or mort-

gave us will to any power under any circumstances. Peace was an imperative commandment for Egypt and he remarked that recent events (presumably the disengagement agreements) had proved the point. "Let me remind you that a very important factor behind our attitude is the constructive and more important role we expect the United States to play."

The real commitment required of Egypt was to peace and justice. "We are not asking you to abandon anyone or turn friends into enemies. We simply request the United States to support a reasonable and just peace agreement."

The President has been asking for American arms, among other things, and told Congress that Egypt expected the United States to refrain from spurring the arms race in the Middle East because it would certainly lead to a renewal of armed conflict.

President Sadat's most tangible accomplishment was the agreement under which America is to supply Egypt with nuclear power plants. The elaborate security arrangements which, it is hoped, will ensure that the reactors can never be used for the manufacture of nuclear weapons have all been worked out and the Administration is submitting a large aid Bill to Congress, which will include lavish sums for Egypt. It remains to be seen whether that body will approve.

Edward Mortimer writes: President Sadat is due in London today for a three-day official visit to Britain. It is the first visit by an Egyptian president, and is regarded as being of great importance for Anglo-Egyptian relations.

The President will have lunch with the Queen today, and will meet Mr Wilson twice tomorrow, as well as seeing leading industrialists. It is an open secret that he is likely to ask for large-scale arms sales.

New York's troubles overshadow US polls

From Peter Strafford
New York, Nov 5

New York's financial troubles have cast their shadow over several of the city and state elections held across the United States yesterday. In New York State, New Jersey and Ohio voters turned down proposals for bond issues of the sort that have bedeviled the city into near-bankruptcy.

In New Jersey, Mr Brendan Byrne, the Governor, placed the blame squarely on New York's difficulties, and criticized Mr Ford's refusal to help. "President Ford's harsh treatment of the New York problem has clearly destroyed voter confidence in government borrowing of all kinds," he said.

In Ohio, Governor James Rhodes had proposed the biggest bond issue by any state in American history, a total of \$4,500m intended to invigorate the state's economy. "The people have spoken, and I will abide by their decision," he said.

Democrats fought back a challenge from the Republicans in two state governors' elections, in Kentucky and Mississippi. The closer of these was Mississippi, where the Republican would have been the first member of his party to become Governor of the state since the reconstruction period after the Civil War.

In Kentucky the issue of busing the transportation of schoolchildren for racial balance was in everyone's mind, but was not exactly an issue, since both candidates opposed it. Mr Julian Carroll, the Governor, was re-elected in spite of an attempt by his Republican opponent to blame him for the busing.

There was a similar situation in Boston, where Mr Kevin White, a Democrat and the current mayor, was elected for the third time, in spite of a challenge from Mr Joseph Bonidy, another Democrat. Both men announced that they



Mr Frank Rizzo waving to the crowd after his reelection as Mayor of Philadelphia. He has been in a wheelchair since breaking his hip in an explosion at an oil refinery fire.

were against busing, and Mr Bonidy alleged that Mr White, a reforming mayor, was responsible for corruption.

In San Francisco voters showed their opposition to city hall surrenders to union demands by approving a new measure that would stop a mayor making such agreements on his own sole authority. They also voted to make striking by policemen and firemen a ground for dismissal.

No one was elected Mayor of San Francisco yesterday in succession to Mr Joseph Alioto because there were too many candidates, no less than 11. So

there will have to be a second round between Mr George Moscone, who believes in liberalizing the laws of marijuana and homosexuality, and Mr John Barbagelata, who is a strong conservative. Mr Moscone won most of the votes yesterday, 31 per cent to Mr Barbagelata's 18 per cent.

Mr Frank Rizzo, the ex-policeman, was easily reelected Mayor in Philadelphia.

One of the main victims in yesterday's elections was the cause of women's rights. In spite of the election of women as lieutenant-governors in both Kentucky and Mississippi. Both

in New York and New Jersey, there were votes against "equal rights" proposals which would have formally banned discrimination in the two states on the basis of sex.

Voters in both states had previously voted in favour of an equal rights amendment (ERA) to the federal Constitution, still a controversial issue across the country. The apparent change of heart reflects the trouble now facing the amendment, and is attributed to determined campaigning against such measures on the ground that a vote for ERA is a vote against the family.

Two Angolan groups form joint command

From Nicholas Ashford
Luanda, Nov 5

Two of the three warring liberation movements in Angola have announced the formation of a joint political and military command, according to Portuguese military sources here.

The two are the Zaire-backed Angolan National Liberation Front (FNLA), led by Dr Holden Roberto, and the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita), whose president is Dr Jonas Savimbi.

The agreement formalizes a situation which has existed for the past two months. FNLA and Unita forces have been cooperating closely in the fight against the third group, the left-wing Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), particularly during the recent fighting in the south of the country where the MPLA has suffered serious reverses.

The two movements have also finally sent delegations to the talks called by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Kampala. These talks, scheduled to have started last weekend, are aimed at ending the fighting for control of Portugal's former colony which is due to gain its independence next Tuesday.

A delegation from the MPLA, led by Dr Lopo do Nascimento, the movement's Prime Minister, has been in Kampala since the beginning of this week. It was assumed here that the other two groups were delaying their arrival for as long as possible until they had seized as much territory as possible from the MPLA in the south.

President Amin of Uganda, as chairman of the OAU, has announced proposals for reconciling the warring factions. These include the formation of a caretaker government to take over the running of the country from independence until a permanent constitution can be prepared, and the neutralization of Luanda, now in MPLA hands.

There was still no confirmation here today of reports that a joint FNLA-Unita column, which is being led by white mercenaries, had captured the MPLA stronghold of Benguela, about 450 miles south of the

capital. However, an MPLA communiqué confirmed for the first time that heavy fighting was taking place around the city.

According to Portuguese travellers arriving in Luanda from Benguela, the MPLA had been seen withdrawing from parts of the city under heavy fire from the attacking forces. But informed sources in Luanda doubted whether the MPLA would evacuate its forces without first putting up stiff resistance.

If, as expected, Benguela eventually falls, it will not take long for the advancing force to capture the port of Lobito, where the population tends to back Unita.

The loss of two such important centres just before independence would be a serious military and psychological blow to the MPLA; this is why the movement, which has previously spurned approaches by the other two now appears anxious to get peace talks under way.

There have been no big changes on the other main battle fronts, as far as can be ascertained from the little information available in the capital. However, there has been some skirmishing north-east of Luanda, while in the south-east the MPLA claims to be continuing its advance on Nova Lisboa, the country's second largest city at present in the hands of Unita.

Meanwhile the MPLA has started to prepare for next week's independence celebrations. Squads of street cleaners are attempting to remove the rubbish which has accumulated during weeks of neglect, and municipal workmen have started taking down the statues of Portuguese heroes from their plinths. Even so, no amount of last-minute tidying can disguise the decline of this once handsome and prosperous city.

Exactly who will attend the independence celebrations is not clear. No Western country is expected to be represented—unless there is a last-minute settlement in Kampala—as this would amount to recognition of the MPLA as the Government of an independent Angola. Nor will many African countries be here for the same reason.

Arab houses blown up in risal raid

Eric Marsden
London, Nov 5

Israeli bulldozers and explosives troops yesterday destroyed four houses in a village four miles south of Tel Aviv. They were the homes of some of the young men arrested on suspicion of being a bomb which exploded in a Jerusalem street on October 27, slightly injuring 12

week police reported two of the five men in the village had been taken to a hospital. One man was killed. The alleged occupiers of the houses lived in a blown up, but none house-owner.

Israel raid, the biggest in years in the Be'et Sheva, has caused resentment among local leaders. Mr. Reiz, the Mayor of Be'et Sheva, said: "The Israeli talk to us is a lie. After eight years of occupation they are now blowing up Arab houses."

Governor Carey thinks city may avoid early default

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Nov 5

There now appears to be some confidence that New York City will not actually go into default this month. At a press conference last night, Mr Hugh Carey, the Governor of New York State, said that enough money had been found to meet payments coming due next week, something that had been in doubt.

Mr Carey added, however, that trouble would start on December 1, unless some way was found by then to meet the city's problems. He repeated his warning to President Ford that it would cost the Federal Government more to let New York go bankrupt than it would to provide the loan guarantees being asked for.

Governor Carey drew attention to all the measures taken in New York to deal with the crisis—\$300m in new taxes, tens of thousands of dismissals, cuts in services and the like—in his bus and subway fares. "The people around the country don't realize these things because of the President's speech and other misleading information," he said.

Meanwhile all hope has not been given up that the city might be able to find a way out of its difficulties on its own, even after the beginning of December. An elaborate plan, which would include the conversion of short-term city notes into long-term securities, is under study by those trying to save New York from bankruptcy.

Mr Felix Rohatyn, the chairman of the Municipal Assistance Corporation, said he expected to know by tomorrow whether the plan had any chance.

One of the possibilities being studied is that, instead of being given a choice, bondholders might be required to change to longer-term notes.

There was an indication today that people across the United States are not in fact so hostile to the idea of federal help to New York as President Ford apparently thinks. According to a poll carried out by The New York Times and the Columbia Broadcasting System, 55 per cent were in favour of aid, 33 per cent were against, and 12 per cent had no opinion.

Call grows for Perón retirement

Buenos Aires, Nov 5.—The

tenure of office of Señora Isabel Perón as President of Argentina appeared to be nearing its end today in the face of an almost unanimous feeling that she should step down.

Only a small group of right-wing Peronists were fighting a last-ditch battle to keep the President in power as she was recovering in hospital from what was officially described as a gall bladder ailment.

Trade union leaders, opposition parties, members of the armed forces and even leaders of her own Justicialist Party and members of her Cabinet are agreed that Señora Perón can no longer rule.

The President, who is 44, faces a growing scandal over alleged misuse of public funds during her 16 months in office, and her opponents question her ability to govern a country suffering from an ailing economy and mounting left-wing guerrilla activity.

A federal judge investigating

allegations of corruption in the Social Welfare Ministry has ordered the arrest of Señora Perón for three weeks earlier this year.

The judge is also investigating a large cheque drawn on a Peronist charity supported by public funds. Señora Perón signed the cheque early this year to pay off the private heirs of Eva Perón, the previous wife of her late husband, General Juan Perón.—Reuters.

Bolshoi director dismissed

Moscow, Nov 5.—The director of the Bolshoi Theatre,

Kirill Vladimirovich Molchanov, has been dismissed, according to usually well-informed sources here.

Mr Molchanov, 55, a composer, had been director of the Bolshoi for the past two years.

He was expected to be replaced by his two assistants.

It was not immediately known why the Culture Ministry had decided to replace Mr Molchanov, who accompanied the Bolshoi opera and ballet company on a tour of the United States earlier this year.—Agence France Presse.

Defence Ministry blamed in cement scandal

Hill
Correspondent

The new military equipment supplied to the country's cement has attracted those who are ordering such

ack, made in a state- Colonel Shehu Yar ie Commissioner for e Nigerian High Com e amounts to a sting- amation of Nigerian t agencies and the Ministry of Defence, nder the previous of General Yakubu dered 20 million tons n for an ambitious ut programme.

The armada of cement ch led to the suffo Nigeria's principal Lagos-Apapa, causing gested at other Hundreds of ships i waiting for months their cargoes. and inport Commissioner of the 20 million ment, 16 million tons i ordered by the Ministry. The type of entered into, he said, indeniably unortho they defied prudence ernational usage.

Defence Ministry officials had also agreed to excessively generous demurrage charges, the charges made for keeping ships beyond the time agreed for unloading.

Demurrage rates had varied between £1980 and £2,566 a day and, it was alleged, in a number of cases the charges had been fraudulently secured.

He also asserted that a number of the cement ships had been chartered on their way to the breakers' yards and were unserviceable. They had been let out on charter simply to take advantage of the demurrage provisions.

The Colonel emphasized that there was no question of the Government cancelling outstanding contracts, and genuine claims for compensation arising from the suspension of certain shipments would be closely considered.

The new administration, he declared, was acting to clear the backlog of ships and cement cargoes as quickly as possible. To speed up the discharge of cement, four 150,000-ton deadweight bulk carriers would be anchored outside Lagos to act as temporary floating warehouses for the cement unloaded from ships by conveyors.

Spanish troops leave 'no man's land' for marchers

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Nov 5

Spanish troops have withdrawn to strong defensive positions in the Spanish Sahara at an average distance of about seven miles from the Moroccan border. This has created a "no man's land" in which irregular forces are apparently operating freely, with reports of numerous skirmishes.

More than 50 desert guerrillas have been killed in the past three days, according to reports published here today. The fighting was said to have been between the Algerian-backed Polisario (Sahara Popular Liberation Front) and the Moroccan-supported Flus (United Liberation Forces of the Sahara).

The bitterest battle, according to the Spanish news agency Europa Press, took place on Sunday when Polisario raiders captured a fortress inside Spanish territory which had been occupied by Moroccan irregulars. The agency said that about 50 Moroccans died and 40 were wounded. About 60 others are said to have surrendered to the Polisarios.

Spain's tough, well-trained Foreign Legion are manning a line of defence about 60 miles north of El Aaiun. Equipped

with the most modern arms and supported by air and naval support on call, they present a formidable barrier. It would take the Moroccan marchers at least one day to reach the Spanish defences from the time they set out from the border town of Tarfaya.

Tarfaya, Nov 5.—King Hassan of Morocco may curtail his "peace march" to a short mass walk across the frontier that would run no risk of encountering Spanish troops, government sources said today.

Such a decision would leave the King open to charges of backing down, but it would avert open war with Spain. A Spanish government source said: "We have left certain territory so they can march in if they want. But if they reach our defence lines, they can try to cross only at their own risk."

El Aaiun, Nov 5.—General Federico Gomez de Salazar, the military governor of Spanish Sahara, said today that if the marchers pass Spanish frontier positions they would enter minefields and the "consequences would be terrible".—Reuters.

one of the factors which led to the recent and most serious outbreak of war in the capital. However, as in the past, the situation could change overnight. The Phalangists remain in force in the Holiday Inn, the 25-storey hotel around which most of the recent fighting took place; and the leftists are holding on to their prized vantage point on the 33-storey Murr Tower, from which they dominate surrounding Phalangist positions.

Palestinian vehicles with recoilless rifles and with Syrian licence plates, have now begun to appear in the streets, lending credence to reports that units of the Palestine Liberation Army have arrived from Syria as reinforcements.

The one optimistic sign was that the lines of communication between the various factions in the complex political mosaic appeared to have been reestablished. These had completely broken down two weeks ago—

Japanese pay protection money to gunmen

I Martin
5

s of Lebanese took of the latest lull in war today to salvage s of furniture and ngings from battle e residential area. tem had to pay pro- y to leftist gunmen rrun their districts. s reflected the state of the population, no confidence that asire between the the fighting-wing and Palestine. sta will hold. Indeed, been predictions, tes that fighting will

be resumed at the end of the week when both sides of the "green line" across Beirut have stocked up on food, fuel and money.

Reinforced Army units today began patrolling the business areas of the city in an attempt to encourage people to return to their offices and businesses. However, fears of a new outbreak of violence caused most people who ventured out to stay only a few hours in their offices. Banks still remain closed.

Many of those who moved out of their homes in the Kanat al-Clameuseu area, where fighting raged during the past 13 days, sought refuge in the mountains overlooking Beirut. They left behind mostly

empty apartment buildings which have been occupied by Palestinian and leftist forces. Although Mr Rashid Karani, the Prime Minister, has spoken with increasing confidence about the ceasefire worked out last weekend, many feel that the street war is now out of political control. Certainly both sides have adopted a fatalistic attitude. Each believes that the other has no option but to launch a new attack when supplies of essentials have been replenished.

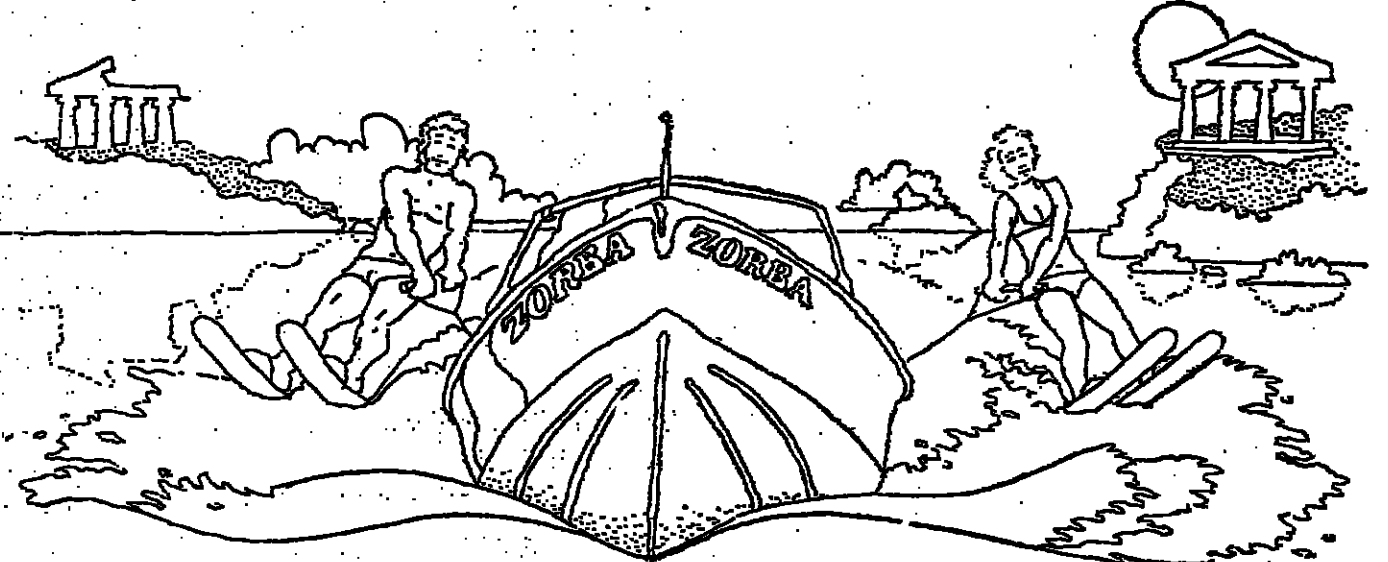
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IF YOU DON'T FANCY SKIING THIS WINTER, WHY NOT TRY SKIING INSTEAD?



With a summer that lasts more than ten-months of the year, the holiday season in Greece is almost endless.

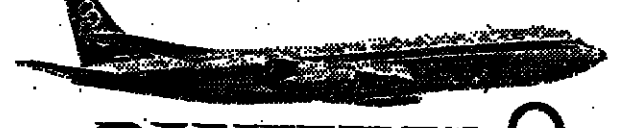
So rather than fly you to ski-slopes in winter, Olympic Airways fly you to sunny beaches. Daily flights direct to Athens. Once a week direct to Thessaloniki. And once a week a through service to Crete via Athens, as well as connections every day to Crete and Rhodes via Athens.

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OVERSEAS

Jail murder of Mujib ministers led to Bangladesh takeover

From Our Correspondent
Calcutta, Nov 5

The "brutal murder" in prison of four close associates of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman brought about this week's bloodless change of power in Bangladesh, according to Dacca radio. Two of the victims were former prime ministers, Mr. Tajuddin Ahmed and Mr. Masudul Karim, and their deaths set off a powerful reaction against the leaders of the August 15 coup in which Sheikh Mujib and members of his family were killed.

Those responsible for the killings were not identified, but the radio said that some of them had fled the country. A commission has been appointed to investigate the jail incident and "inquire into the circumstances under which some of the criminals were given safe passage" out of Bangladesh.

There have been public demonstrations in Dacca against the killings and the escape of those alleged to be responsible. The Government has appealed to the people not to observe a general strike planned in protest.

Dacca radio referred to a presidential decree without specifying who the President is. According to news agency reports, Mr. Khandakar Mustaq Ahmed remains head of state.

Brigadier Khalid Musharraf, who has taken over as army chief with the rank of major-general, had not made any public statement to this evening. He has replaced Major-General Ziaur Rahman, who was made army chief after the August coup. Apart from General Ziaur, four ministers are said to have resigned and two of them have been arrested.

Air and telecommunication links between India and Bangladesh were broken for the third day today.

Delhi, Nov 5.—The other two people killed in prison have been named as Mr. Nazrul Islam, a former Vice-President, and Mr. A. H. M. Kamaruzzam, former Home Minister. All four victims were jailed on corruption charges after Sheikh Mujib's death.—AP.

Our Bangladesh Correspondent writes: Fifteen Bangladesh officers, some with their families, have arrived in Bangkok. They include three of the chief organizers of the August 15 coup.

The party of 29, including children, are staying at a modest hotel after arriving here yesterday on board a specially chartered airliner. After several hours of waiting at the airport, Thai authorities allowed them to enter the country without passports. According to the officers, the Bangladesh Embassy is paying for their accommodation.

Lieutenant-Colonel Khandakar Abdul Rashid, commander of an artillery regiment, said they had left the country rather than resist the takeover because the President did not want any bloodshed. "We really had only two alternatives, to fight or leave. We could not surrender because there was no guarantee of our security. Tension was running high and we could have been shot out of hand", Colonel Rashid added.

The officers strongly defended their decision to kill President Mujib, saying that he was corrupt and threatened the sovereignty of Bangladesh. They feared that he would call on assistance from a "foreign power".

Mr Whitlam insists: No election for a year

Canberra, Nov 5.—Mr Gough Whitlam, the Prime Minister buoyed up by increasing evidence of popular support for his Labour Government's fight against the Opposition's parliamentary blockade of budget Bills, said today that he would not call a general election for at least a year.

His statement to Parliament immediately increased pressure on Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Liberal leader, to end Australia's political crisis by allowing the Government's money measures to pass through the Senate.

But for the third time in three weeks the Opposition delayed the passage of the Bills in the Senate, where it holds a slim majority. Action to block the Bills was taken by Mr Fraser, who said they would not be passed until Mr Whitlam called a general election.

The tussle began after the disclosure of secret government attempts to raise up to £4,000m in Middle East petrodollar loans through Mr Frash Khamani, a London-based money dealer.

With only sufficient funds to carry on day-to-day business until the end of this month, the Government has asked trading banks to lend it money to pay civil servants and the defence forces until the blocked Bills are passed by the Senate.

Mr Whitlam has ordered stringent economy cuts in all departments, suspended free travel for members of Parliament and even stopped the mailing of Christmas cards and greetings by ministers and government departments.—Reuters.

Leading article, page 15

● Rarely on my consumer excursions do I find things that leave me speechless while I search for adequate adjectives to express pleasure and delight. David Watkins's work, the two necklaces and a bangle are shown in the photographs, are astounding.

The space-age necklace (also absolutely magnificent as a wall-hanging) is something new for David

Watkins in that he has introduced aluminium into his jewelry to extend the range and expression of his work. This necklace, combined with gold, costs £850. Most of his pieces during the past four years (he has exhibited widely both in this country and abroad) have concentrated on the harmonization of gold and acrylic.

The second photograph shows how an apparently hard and dull medium like acrylic can, by shape and form and the

incredible marrying up with gold, produce a classical necklace (£350) and bangle (£170). With a three piece, gyroscopic bangle (which I would regard as an executive's ideal toy) which costs £40, he has even moved away from acrylic altogether in favour of simple aluminium.

Naturally, the gold and acrylic jewelry are one-off pieces, though his work in aluminium will be produced in a limited edition. The British Arts

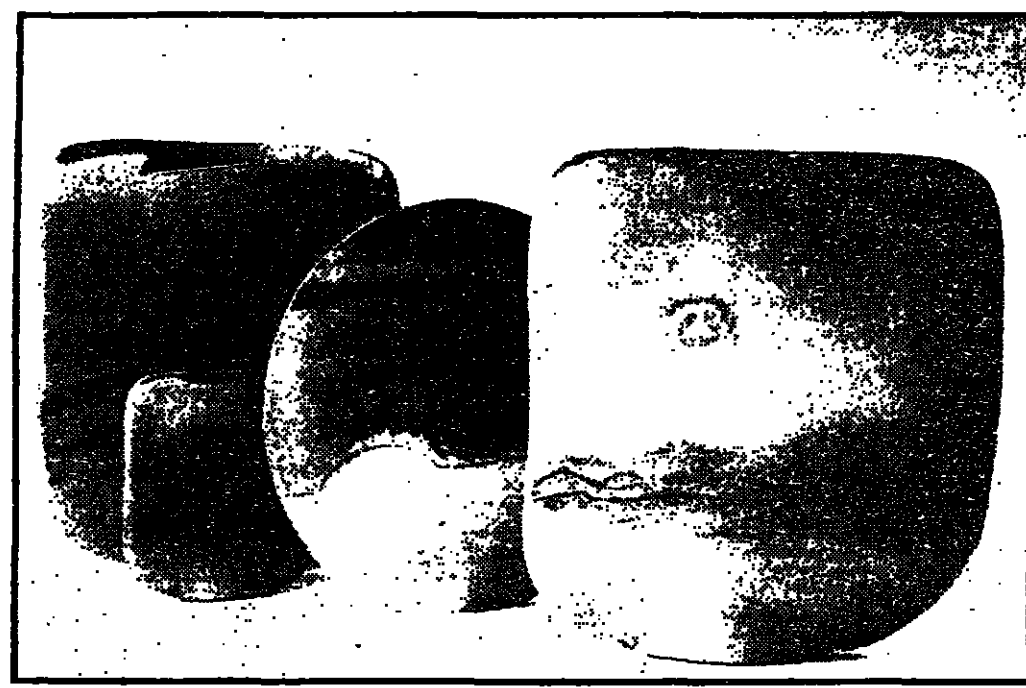
Council is about to sponsor a touring exhibition of international jewelry which will open in Scotland next month. Much of David Watkins's work will be on display.

Meanwhile, you can try on some of his pieces at the Arnold's Gallery, 25, St. James's Place, London (01-235 1231), or at Atmosphere, 148 Regent Park Road, London, NW1 8XN (01-722 6058).

● People (including me) often moan about the Electricity Council, but *Happy Home-making* is an excellent booklet, available free from electricity boards, which is designed to give useful advice, hints and tips to young couples setting up their first home.

The 40-page book is simply illustrated, and explains such things as reading the meter, as well as suggesting the most economical way of using electricity, and offers a guide to kitchen planning and the choosing and use of electrical appliances.

There is a room-by-room guide to lighting and heating, and clear explanations of things like wiring a plug or replacing a fuse. If you prefer, you can write for a copy to the Electricity Council, Marketing Department, Trafalgar Buildings, 1 Charing Cross, London, SW1A 2DS.



● Also at the Atmosphere Gallery (address above) is a grand exhibition of New Ceramics by Val Barry. The exhibition starts today and goes on until December 6. The high-fired clay stoneware pots are slab built and the two halves moulded together.

Val Barry then carves her fascinating patterns on them and the wax-resistant glaze is fired. The textures and shapes are fascinating and, naturally, no two are alike. The pots are very thin which seems to enhance their amazing sculptured appearance.

You could put flowers in them, I suppose. But they look so regal and uncompromising just standing on a shelf that I think it would be a pity to put anything in them. The roundish one (in the middle of the photograph) is now very scarce and would cost about £25. The square one on the extreme left is £35, the little one next to it £12.50, and the big one on the right £45.

43 await result of death sentence appeals

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Nov 5

The result of the appeals by 43 people sentenced to death for treason in Zanzibar is to be given by the island's Chief Justice on Monday.

Fourteen of the appellants were not present at their trial last year, being held in jails on mainland Tanzania where the authorities declined to return them to Zanzibar.

The charges alleged a conspiracy to overthrow the Zanzibar Government in April, 1972, when Sheikh Abeid Karume, chairman of the Revolutionary Council, and Vice-President, was assassinated.

Pakistan press union starts fight for fair reporting

From Hasan Akhtar
Lahore, Nov 5

Pakistan's only union of working journalists has protested strongly against the direct use of the police to suppress fair reporting of Opposition opinions in newspapers.

At the end of its three-day meeting in Lahore, the executive council of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists in a resolution released today, said: "Never before... has the national press been subjected to such unabashed repression as during the past few months."

The Government resorted to all conceivable methods of coercion to prevent newspapers and news agencies from dissemination of factual information and objective coverage of events."

The resolution stated that the Government had surpassed the colonial and dictatorial regimes of the past in ensuring that news and press conferences of dissenting political leaders were not reported. Newspapers had received threats that the Defence of Pakistan Rules and the Press and Publication Ordinance would be employed against them.

The system of "press advice" had been ruthlessly and

frequently used to suppress news about Opposition leaders and parties; and instead "distorted versions" of Opposition statements have been published.

Pakistan has rarely enjoyed true freedom of the press. However, the plight of newspapers has been aggravated recently, mostly because of visits to their offices by uniformed policemen, who served them with Government orders banning publication of news about the recent political crisis in Punjab.

In its resolution, the journalists' union presented a five-point charter to the Government in order to "secure freedom of the press". Among other things, it demanded the dismantling of the state-controlled National Press Trust, which owns almost half of Pakistan's main newspapers; and the reconstitution of the Press Commission.

The resolution said that the Government should announce an immediate moratorium preventing the use of special laws against erring newspapers and journalists, and open a dialogue before December 1 with the union and editors. Otherwise a "struggle for achieving press freedom" would be launched throughout the country.

Antarctic rescue plane damaged

Christchurch, New Zealand, Nov 5.—A United States Navy Hercules transport aircraft has been grounded in the Antarctic while helping to recover two identical aircraft stranded there since January.

The Hercules was damaged when its nose ski struck rough ice while taking off after delivering supplies to a team trying to recover the two other aircraft.—Reuters.

Hongkong and China link up to forecast weather

From Our Correspondent
Hongkong, Nov 5

The Royal Hongkong Observatory has begun work on expanding its telecommunication facilities in order to exchange weather information with China, under an agreement which comes into effect next month.

The Peking-Hongkong weather service will be China's third link with the outside world under a system recommended by the World Meteorological Organization, which other links, overriding political and national antipathies, are with the Soviet Union and Mongolia.

The operational cost of the new service to Hongkong will be much less than the present monitoring service under which Hongkong had to pick up weather broadcasts from Chinese radio stations.

The original proposal was to use satellites for telecommunication but this would have been far more expensive than the agreed arrangement which involves the installation of a computer system that will pick up information from Canton.

The new arrangement will improve weather forecasting in both countries and is expected to be followed by similar cooperation in seasonal rainfall predictions and typhoon tracking.

Mr Gordon Bell, the director of the Royal Hongkong Observatory, visited Peking to sign the agreement and was impressed by the efficiency and modern equipment of Chinese weather stations which he inspected.

The weather information will be exchanged in Morse code on a round-the-clock basis.

The World Meteorological Organization was the first world body which China joined after its entry into the United Nations in 1971. China has always attached great importance to weather forecasting as a guide for agricultural planning, irrigation and precautions against flooding.

In August this year, Chinese scientists prepared an elaborate 10-year weather forecast for 10 provinces in north and north-east China.

Cunard's former Queen still up to mischief

From Our Correspondent
Hongkong, Nov 5

The Queen Elizabeth, the former Cunard liner, is still causing trouble, despite her destruction by fire in Hongkong harbour in 1971, when she was being converted into a floating university.

Last week, the wreck which has been under salvage since 1972, suddenly rolled from a 48° list to starboard to 34° and disgorged several tons of oil which polluted the surrounding waters and beaches.

The salvage company had already removed 1,000 tons of fuel oil from the wreck at a cost of \$HK6m (£600,000). It will now have to pay the cost of dealing with the pollution.

Australia Post to drop Queen's insignia

Melbourne, Nov 5.—The Australian postal service is to drop the Queen's insignia from its post boxes, stationery and buildings, it was announced today.

Cancer risk warning by scientist

From Alan McGregor
Lyons, Nov 5

A call to the World Health Organization (WHO) to warn the governments of developing nations against agreeing to the installation of chemical industries which are forced out of other countries by new controls was made in Lyons today at a conference on cancer research.

It came from Professor Samuel Epstein, a British specialist working in America, who said a trend could be noted of such industries relocating in areas with non-existent, or grossly inadequate, health standards.

Citing the United States as an example, the professor said standards existed for only about 450 of the thousands of chemicals to which workers were exposed. He added: "The massive post-war effluence of chemical technology has occurred largely unrestricted by national, much less international, controls."

He believed that, if most human cancers were caused by

avoidable exposure to chemicals, there should be clear economic incentives to reduce the environmental and occupational risks.

"Carcinogenic hazards from a particular synthetic chemical need not necessarily be accepted even when matching benefits appear high, as equally efficacious but non-hazardous alternatives are usually available." The alternative was sealed systems with zero levels of exposure.

In giving a trade unionist's view, Mr A. C. Blythorn, from the legal department of the Transport and General Workers' Union, criticized scientists and doctors for neglecting to provide information on dangerous substances to both employers and employees. Everyone should be made aware of hazards in industry. There must be many suspect processes which should be investigated in depth, to reduce or eliminate risk.

Professor L. M. Shabad, of

the Oncological Scientific Centre in Moscow, blamed aircraft engines for "a considerable share" of worldwide air pollution by benz(a)pyrene, a carcinogenic hydrocarbon. He cited examples of high concentrations in the soil or snow beside runways at an airport near Moscow.

He said an average 31.5 per cent reduction in this pollutant discharge could be effected by using fuel with magnesium additives. With deaerated fuel the decrease was 59.5 per cent.

Professor H. F. Stich, of the cancer research centre at the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver, proposed the monitoring of skin tumours on lemon sales for measuring the level of carcinogens in river estuaries, close to urban activity, where benz(a)pyrene levels in mussels could be about 50 times the maximum level permitted in smoked foods. It was obvious that a potential human health hazard existed.

Enough to make your hair curl beautifully

● Having been sent the new Braun Quick Curl tongs, I hurriedly called for the *femme fatale* to perform a test run. The instructions for use said that Quick Curl would "make your page boy bob". We both found this rather confusing because we do not possess a page boy, and if we did I do not think I would want him bobbing all over the place.

Be that as it may, the curling tongs are an absolute boon to a busy girl (the *femme fatale's* words, not mine) because they really do work. In a matter of seconds, using heat and steam, Quick Curl will put the bounce back into frizzed and, if need be, frizz you up in a positively Afro way.

A small container at the end of the tongs is filled with water and screwed back to the tongs. You switch on to warm up the apparatus (there is a thermostat to ensure that the tongs will not overheat) and a "ready to use indicator" tells you when the tongs are at correct curling temperature.

Settle back with a worthwhile book

● One of the best books yet to come from the Consumers' Association is *Avoiding Back Trouble* (published this week at £1.40 and available directly from the CA, Caxton Hill, Hertford, SG13 7LZ). Thousands of people suffer from backache and the researchers who have written the book blame this appalling form of pain on the working environment in factories, offices and kitchens.

The subject has been starved of attention, says the book. By redesigning the working environment, much of the postural stress which leads to backache could be eliminated, it concludes.

With the aid of illustrations, the book looks at some of the causes of stress on the back, offers advice for the chronic back sufferer and ends with suggested exercises useful in the general care of the back. I understand that the book will also be available through bookshops.

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he pumped and won a he may be allowed chance in the Black old Cup, at Ascot in ridden by John he looked like winning ick Memorial Handicap. He was a fine unti. Late Night he last fence but one He did not fall but he was a little out of and he had nothing left. Clump emerged from obscurity as Lord Curzon's first race at Ascot by his former pointer to gave William Carson a run busting. Last year he was ridden by an, Richard Hutchinson neighbour and friend and Elkie Abel Smith, who was a little out of a little hunter. e, it was feared that tion had ended the career. But a visit to the stud farm, where he was the equivalent of our equine station at Newmarket, and now Jolly's Clump was training at Newmarket and he was a fine runner as Larry. Certainly, no signs of suffering or trouble yesterday morning for the first time.

[illegible]

Maurice Camacho, who took over from his stepfather, Charles Hall, at Tadcaster on Saturday, did not have to wait long for his first winner as Edward Dagi led as the

disheartened about keeping continually in training with no financial reward and is now about to go into business with a friend.

master Sales for 3,000 guineas, was registering his first success over the hurdle, under the silks of blue and silver. He was joined by his sister Philip and Vera Stead, who live near Harrogate. Blackcap, the 33-1 outsider, set a fast pace in the early stages, but David Greaves, who has been a professional rider, was not flustered on the 7-4 favourite and

By Sydney Friskin
Berkenham 6 London Univ 1
 Berkenham, a usually resourceful hockey side, improved their position in the London League and

half from short corners and open play.
Beckenham were disheartened

Ashford, Green, Stary's College, Umpire, P. Brown and K. Rowe (Southern Counties).
= A Purple.

Cricket

Kallisbarran hits

Bloodstock sales

Ray colt foal

BOWLING: Skatner 5-1-15-0
Ryan 5-0-15-0 Arthur 3-0-35
McMahon 10-0-1 Hopper 3-0-35
Lumber 10-0-160 Tully 1-0-35
Grose 1-0-35 Reuter 3-0-35

NEW DELHI: Sri Lanka 266 D-1
Zimbabwe 113 A. Ranasinghe 66: North
zone 39-1

KEE: 5-10-11 Money Kar
4-10-1 Credo's Daughter 5-10-5
8-10-9
Caledonia 9-10-3 What a Buck
9-10-9
Caledonia 9-10-8
9-10-8 Jermain 4-10-8
8-10-8 Trede 3-10-8
Tuder, Lord Browned 7-10-7 Black
7-10-6 Evers 6-10-6
Sweet 8-0-8 Collinwood 6-0-8
Cerna 8-0-7 Prairie Den 1-0-6
Cerna 8-0-7
Wilpani Fred 8-0-11 Licker 8-0-7

and Retail Establishments in the U.K. and Overseas

Dark Sky (R. Norton), R. Keenor, 8-10-0	5	J. Jetties
Just for Sure (Mrs. B. Reynolds), K. Kindersley, 4-10-0	5	
My Eye, 7-2 Croftland, 5-1 Just, because, 6-1 Never Worry, 8-1 Arctic Amoroza, Just for Sure, 12-1 Listercomb, 5-1	5	Kington
PEEN HURDLE (Div II : Novices : £408 : 2m)		
Wayward Scot (L. Derson), F. Winter, 6-11-12	5	J. Franchise
Black Aster (C. Merson), Merson, 5-11-7	5	
Buckle (SM), Mrs E. Barker, R. Turnell, 5-11-7	5	
Winner Biff (G. Plowen), R. Smyth, 5-11-7	5	

My Eye. 3.30 BUCKLE is specially recommended.

ter programme

1 STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £408: 2m 1f)

spechm 1E. Courage), Courage, 6-10-12 J. Barlow 5
adars (Admin of late P. Blackburn), Miss Morris, 6-10-7
P. Koane

TON HURDLE (Div II: Novices: 5-y-o: £340:
 bounty (G. Wynn), R. Edwards, 11-1 Mr M. Brisbane 7
 ry Churchills (E. Hughes), D. McCall, 10-10 R. Barry
 atory (A. Tindell), L. Carrad, 10-10 F. Stockdale 7
 gety /K. Stapleton, Stapleton, 10-10 G. Graham 7

[illegible]

11-4 Hobbs, 7-2 Salvo of Conkers, 4-1 Rethink, 5-1 Paterhof, 8-1 Fair Georgina, 12-1 Alverton, 16-1 others.

Uttoxeter selections

by Our Racing Staff

[illegible]

Peter-Hobbs, at Manitoa, 51, 4L 351 (1.51) LIONEL VICK STEEPLE- chase (Handicap: 2725: 5m) -Lionel's Clump, h. by Kaydon -Pete R. Hutton, 19-10-1961 -Lionel's Night Extra, h. by Evelyn -Pete R. Hutton, 19-10-1961 -P. Brown, 19-11-3 -Lionel's V. J. Francome, 16-61 -Lionel's V. J. Francome, 16-61 -Lionel's V. J. Francome, 16-61	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495
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Synchlora	8	by G. Cutting,		Mida (Mrs. G. Booth), 7-10-4	
Cambesia	1 Mrs.				J. Marshall (6-8 fav)	2
9-10-13 R. Kingston (13-S)	2				Sandwichan, Dr. E. by Road House	
Larvina, ch	5	by Polaris (USA)			H-Awakani (M. Speeding), 7-14-1	
1 Larva		(Mrs. E. Storz)			K. Myrd (11-S)	3
9-11-0	W. Smith (4-1)	3				

19	1040330	Only Child (D), Diana Smith, 8-5	L. Charnock 5-5
20	042040	Or Sonag, (C), Prescott, 8-0	C. Nutter 7-7
21	040040	Orsonale, (C), Prescott, 7-12	C. Nutter 7-7
22	700000	Right On, Thompson, Jones, 7-7	C. Rodrigues 5-5
7-2	040000	Lady, 1-1, Mahabli, 5-1, Kelso Belle, 7-1, Wandrow, 8-1, Saxe, 10-1	
		Calum, Rhonda, Prince, 12-1	Purple Princess, 16-1 others.
3.30 DULHAM PLATE (E311: 14m)			
16	0400113	Chassner, R. Jarvis, 5-5	M. Reynard 5-5
17	0400113	2nd Leg, (C), Prescott, 8-5	B. Thomas 5-5
18	0-0-000	Highview Lord, 1-1, Walk, 8-5	S. Hyde 8-5

Teesside Park selections
By Our Racing Staff
1.9 TRULY YOURS is specially recommended. 1.30 Willyboy.

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Dr. Yeoman, b. 8-12-32	C. McCauley 17-1	2
Far Cap. b. by Sam Sine 1-1		
Winter (J. Phelan) 1-1	C. Black 1-1	3
ALSO RAN:		
1st. (1st) 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
2nd. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
3rd. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
4th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
5th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
6th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
7th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
8th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
9th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
10th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
11th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
12th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
13th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
14th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
15th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
16th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
17th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
18th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
19th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
20th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
21st. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
22nd. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
23rd. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
24th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
25th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
26th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
27th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
28th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
29th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
30th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
31st. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
32nd. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
33rd. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
34th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
35th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
36th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
37th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
38th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
39th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
40th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
41st. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
42nd. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
43rd. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
44th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
45th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
46th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
47th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
48th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
49th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
50th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
51st. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
52nd. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
53rd. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
54th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
55th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
56th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
57th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
58th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
59th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
60th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
61st. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
62nd. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
63rd. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
64th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
65th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
66th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
67th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
68th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
69th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
70th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
71st. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
72nd. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
73rd. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
74th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
75th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
76th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
77th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
78th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
79th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
80th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
81st. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
82nd. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
83rd. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
84th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
85th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
86th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
87th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
88th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
89th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
90th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
91st. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
92nd. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
93rd. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
94th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
95th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
96th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
97th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
98th. 1-1	C. Black 1-1	2
99th. 1-1		

[illegible]

Melbourne, Nov. 5.—Alvin Kallicharran hit 86 runs in 89 minutes to lead the West Indians to an eight-wicket victory over Victorian Country XI in their one-day cricket match at Bendigo, north-west of here, today.

The little left-handed batsman

Top price at the end of the two-day Ballsbridge bloodstock sale was 4,000 guineas, paid by Kerr and Co, of Dublin, for a bay colt foal. The second last lot in the catalog, the good-looking bay colt, broke out of sale to Ballsbridge and so is three parts brother to James Draper's fourth

only because of rain, and by the time we had 11 boundaries and two more to his credit. He and Rowe (45) shared a 101-run partnership in 61 minutes to guide the touring side past the Victorian Country's 1119 for seven declared. The West Indians lost Rowe after batting on for 100 minutes.

Of the 166 lots on offer on Tuesday, 123 were sold for an

Norris, C. D.	15	16
Padmore	15	16
Padmore, C. J.	15	16
Turner, C. Rowe	15	16
Hopson, not out	15	16
Whitson, not out	15	16
Sabre	15	16
Total 17 wickets dec	15	16
FALL WICKETS	15	16
1-0-0-0	15	16
BOWLING	15	16
Boice	15	16

BOWLING: Skatner 5-1-15-0
Ryan 5-0-15-0 Arthur 3-0-35
McMahon 10-0-1 Hopper 3-0-35
Lumber 10-0-160 Tully 1-0-35
Grose 1-0-35 Reuter 3-0-35

NEW DELHI: Sri Lanka 266 D-1
Zimbabwe 113 A. Ranasinghe 66: North
zone 39-1

KEE: 5-10-11 Money Kar
4-10-1 Credo's Daughter 5-10-5
8-10-9
Caledonia 9-10-3 What a Buck
9-10-9
Caledonia 9-10-8
9-10-8 Jermain 4-10-8
8-10-8 Trede 3-10-8
Tuder, Lord Browned 7-10-7 Black
7-10-6 Evers 6-10-6
Sweet 8-0-8 Collinwood 6-0-8
Cerna 8-0-7 Prairie Den 1-0-6
Cerna 8-0-7
Wilpiani Fred 8-0-11 Licker 8-0-7

and Retail Establishments in the U.K. and Overseas

The new factory will add 40% to our output next year. Tell me all I need to know about safeguarding anticipated extra earnings.

Royal Insurance looks after you. Fast.

After the Ulster strike, the question is: could Westminster survive total civil disorder?

Belfast, Nov 5

Over the past few months, Post Office engineers in Northern Ireland have secretly installed a whole network of standby generators at telephone exchanges across the province. There have been discussions at the Army's headquarters at Lisburn about the viability of training soldiers, together with civilian technicians, to operate the most modern of Ulster's power stations; and at one long meeting at Stormont Castle, civil servants talked about the powers which might be used to restrict news broadcasts by the local BBC should there be a coup d'état by the "loyalists".

The importance of these events, however, lies not in their provenance—they have all come about as a direct result of the unprecedented industrial strike staged by the Ulster Workers' Council in 1974—but in their application. They are being repeated on a national scale. As a direct result of the same Ulster stoppage, new telephone exchanges in Britain are also being equipped with standby generators; Army officers have lectured at length in two British staff colleges in the past six months about the implications of the UWC tactics, and there is now believed to be a document in existence in Whitehall, drawn up by civil servants, which suggests the kind of measures that might be taken in a national emergency to curb the ability of BBC radio and television to broadcast statements by leaders of a politically inspired strike.

For only now, 18 months after 1,000,000 Ulster Protestants broke up British policy in Northern Ireland and brought down their own coalition government by cutting off electricity, gas, food, public transport, almost every means of livelihood, heat and sewage in the province, are the

national implications of the strike being studied by the Government in Whitehall.

Post Office and Electricity Council officials in London have received detailed reports from their subordinates in Ulster about the extent to which essential supplies can be maintained in a situation of near anarchy within the UK; for 18 months ago a few power workers in Ulster, with the active support of paramilitary gangs and the wide if latent support of the middle classes, proved the British Army, the police, the public authorities, civil servants and moderate politicians alike impotent in the face of widespread industrial disorder.

What would happen, some politicians are now asking

(among them Scottish nationalists who have spoken to the UWC) if the Ulster strike was repeated regionally or nationally? If a new and more militant strain of trade unionists took control of the central services—particularly the power industry—could a British government at Westminster defeat it?

The Army, for instance, found that it could not man the massive Ballymunnaford power station outside Belfast in 1974 without the help of middle management. But these civilians would not work with the Army, so after a secret military foray into the power station on the first Sunday of the strike (admitted by the Government neither then nor since), Army technicians concluded that they did not

have the skill to operate such sophisticated energy-producing machinery. Furthermore, Army officers doubted the Government's ability to find a worthwhile policy in Northern Ireland; they were worried because the strike was industrial and non-violent rather than terrorist, and British soldiers stood and watched hooded men building barricades across the main streets of Belfast.

Officers of the Ministry of Defence also doubted the Government's wisdom and delayed sending extra troops; there is an incriminating passage in the confidential Stormont Castle government minutes for Saturday, May 18, 1974, which says that "During the late evening, strong pressure had to be brought to bear on MOD (Ministry of Defence) officials to

hasten the arrangements for lifting troops to Northern Ireland."

The police in Ulster, like their counterparts in Britain, heavily undermanned, found that it was more expedient to ignore lawlessness when it was non-violent (thus keeping the peace but not the law) and they, too, allowed barricades to be built. One morning, a Stormont civil servant had to shout in anger to an RUC officer down the telephone to obtain an explanation for such behaviour.

The BBC broadcast almost hourly strike bulletins, in some of which loyalist leaders (in live interviews) made appeals to the population to destroy its government.

The Army could no more

break the exclusive, mystical power of the electricity workers in Britain than they could in Ulster, and the police do not have the manpower to stem widespread civil unrest in London or Manchester or Glasgow.

Moderate trade unionists are not immune from working-class anger—Mr Len Murray himself was pelted with rotten tomatoes outside the Belfast shipyard. The national BBC, following its policy of impartiality, might well (and with good reason) broadcast the voices of industrial disaffection.

Lack of control over inflation, right-wing feelings of resentment at the British Government's trade union policies, even racism caused by widespread unemployment, could theoretically bring about a form of militant industrial unrest in Britain. The authorities have at present no way of dealing with such a phenomenon unless they build less sophisticated power stations, increase the technical strength of the Army, reinforce the police, and take powers of censorship against the media.

Such steps cannot, at least in principle, be contemplated, but it is not impossible that the subversion which so many regard as the only way to stability could come peacefully rather than violently. Others presumably think so, too; not long after the strike was ended, one of the UWC leaders was questioned politely and at great length about the Protestant strike by a Russian journalist who also happened (at least according to British intelligence) to be an agent for the KGB.

Robert Fisk

The author's book on the UWC strike, *The Point of No Return*, is published by day by André Deutsch and Times Books at £4.95.



Strike breakers in Belfast in May last year under the protection of British Army guns.

Ronald Butt

Devolution: we walked the same road more than 50 years ago

The present urge towards devolution appears to be largely emotional (I do not use the description pejoratively) representing the wish of national communities to live, and be governed, as such. In this sense, therefore, it is in some contradiction, perhaps casually, to the current progressive posture which favours the abandonment of traditional national allegiances, the free movement of populations and the feeling that even to teach history chiefly in national terms is not quite proper.

The wish for devolution also reflects a local revolt (which was partly responsible even for the rise in the Liberal vote in England) against bureaucratic centralism and the impersonality of bigness.

Yet the last time that devolution was seriously on the political carpet in Britain, the drive for it came primarily not from the smaller nations but from parliamentarians at Westminster who had become convinced that central government and parliament had become overloaded to the point of inefficiency.

This was in 1919 and their answer to inefficiency was a partial devolution of power to subordinate legislatures. (One of the major arguments against devolution today, of course, is that it would not be conducive to efficiency, and that it would interpose yet another costly layer of officialdom between the citizen and ultimate authority. On the other hand, Mr John Mackintosh has argued in his pamphlet *A Parliament for Scotland*, that the present system which gives Scotland its own health and education arrangements is itself inefficient because it also leaves far too much power to the officials of the Scottish Office who cannot be properly controlled by Scottish MPs' away at Westminster.

In 1919, all parties were oppressed

by the burden on Parliament of the weight of legislation and administration resulting from the social interventionism of the 1906 Liberal Government and the needs of war. Government departments were swollen, MPs were overworked and could not control the activities of Whitehall, and the Cabinet had been reduced (according to Major Wood, later Lord Halifax, when he moved the motion for devolution in the Commons) to little more than a committee of ministers for settling the differences between departments. But he thought there was no going back to the old Cabinet government. Devolution of some duties of government to subordinate legislatures was the answer.

The opposite view was put equally strongly. To one MP's assertion: "We shall never be an Imperial Parliament until we have ceased to be a gas and water Parliament", another replied that it was the very variety between great and small issues which made Parliament what it was. "Do not let us fancy that we will make ourselves a greater body if we try to wash our hands of what we call domestic questions."

But, after a two-day debate in June 1919, a motion was passed advocating devolution so that "the Imperial Parliament could devote more attention to the general interests of the United Kingdom" and the Government was requested to appoint a parliamentary inquiry into a suitable form of devolution and its financial aspects.

Lloyd George, the Prime Minister, then set up a conference of 31 mem-

bers of both houses under Mr Speaker Lowther with terms of reference which did not allow the principle of devolution to be questioned but permitted only discussion of how it might be done.

On April 27, 1920, the Speaker's report to the Prime Minister, two alternative schemes and various memoranda were published as a White Paper (Cmd 692). The committee had had little difficulty in determining the powers that should be devolved. These were, among others: the regulation of internal commercial undertakings, universities, societies, Order and Good Government (including the police, prisons, betting and gaming and cruelty to animals), agriculture and land, education, local government, public health and education.

But devolved to what sort of body? In his letter to the Prime Minister, the Speaker said that the discussion was for some time "a duel" between those who supported devolution and those who saw such disadvantages in any scheme that they felt "driven towards the necessity of opposing the principle of devolution itself".

He proposed that the Grand Councils should meet in the autumn leaving the spring and summer months for Parliament itself. The Grand Council would have full legislative powers but the Crown would have a veto on the advice of

the United Kingdom Cabinet. In view of the duplicated membership it was hardly devolution at all and if it relieved the House of Commons as an institution it would certainly have placed a heavier burden on MPs as individuals.

On the other hand, the alternative scheme for directly elected subordinate chambers (formulated by Murray MacDonald) was open to equal objections. In a memorandum included in the White Paper, Lord Southborough said: "The novelty of the experiment and the doubtful results likely to accrue might well disconcert the enthusiastic and stagger the indifferent. In all other federal constitutions the process has not been from the greater to the less but from the less to the greater..."

One critical member of the Speaker's conference, Mr Ronald MacNeil, points out that if national sentiment were the basic issue, devolution should obviously be simply to the three nations. But if the object was efficiency, then the division of England into federal units to equalize better with the smaller Scotland and Wales must be contemplated. What then was there that England wanted this?

However, all were agreed that devolution implied separate finance, and it was proposed to transfer various sources of revenue to the subordinate legislatures. These included liquor and trading licences, inhabited houses and land value duties, and the equivalent of the net yield of so many pence in the pound of the income tax to balance the account.

I cannot see the Treasury today handing over part of its revenue to

meet expenditure over which it has no control. In any case, the 1920 suggestion makes little sense in terms of encouraging local responsibility. Any worth while devolutionary scheme must include the right to raise as well as to spend money locally.

In a recent broadcast, Mr Edward Heath, with his single-minded habit of looking to Europe for solutions, said he saw no problem about devolution—and called in evidence the success of the Federal structure of Germany. But, of course, it works in Germany because it is genuinely federal and because the Länder have reserved powers with independent rights over revenue and even a mechanism for vetoing propositions of the federal government that affect them. Yet Mr Heath said nothing about devolved taxation nor have either Lloyd George or the major United Kingdom parties only the Liberals want a genuine federal structure and if there is to be devolution, theirs is probably the only logical way of setting about it.

The difficulties experienced in 1920 are no less real today. To send the House of Commons to a "treaty" involving all the major parties, as I suggested last week. Even a Speaker's conference of backbench members on the 1920 model would not suffice. Mr Speaker Lowther said in his letter to the Prime Minister: "I felt that the Conference itself was hardly numerous or representative enough to be qualified to undertake the very serious task of drawing up what might in effect be new Constitutions for the component parts of Great Britain." The same might, with due respect, be said of Mr Edward Short and his civil servants today.

The Times Diary

Heath stirs it up on the Tory Left

catch the headlines in every conceivable situation". He ended with mock modesty: "Still, I'm not one to talk to people about communications". A few more jokes about who was paying for the drinks and he was ready to be thanked by Chris Gent, the GLYC chairman. The President of the GLYC might be enough to kill many parliamentary reputations, but Chris is such that we don't have to worry on that account. All laughter loud at that, but none so loud as Heath.

Hanging on

Diplomats at the Spanish embassy in London were on tenterhooks all Tuesday morning wondering whether General Franco would inconsiderately time his death so as to force them to cancel that evening's farewell banquet for the ambassador, Manuel Fraga. They had decided that if the old dictator were to die before 2 pm, the party would be cancelled. After that, it would be too late to send word of the cancellation to guests.

The deadline came and went, the old man hung on, the whisky and Catalan canapés were brought up from the store rooms, and a euphoric time was had by the guests, who included a strong contingent of Right-wing conservatives. Francisco Mayans, the embassy's suave information counsellor, was so relieved that he was moved to make a well-worn joke about the general's illness. To my question about the latest critical bulletin, he replied: "It is signed by the

General himself and announces that his doctors have died of exhaustion".

The past few weeks have been hectic ones for embassy staff. The busy time began with the furore about the execution of Basque terrorists, which excited the British public more than either the latest crisis over Spanish Sahara or Franco's illness.

Mayans said that, before the executions, the embassy received some 500 letters, many from groups, and most protesting against the Government's intention. After the executions, though, there were about 1,500 letters. Most of these, according to Mayans, approved of the Government's tough policy, and went on to express the hope that other governments would deal with terrorists so ruthlessly.

By George

Bernard Shaw loathed being called a Jew. He once told the BBC that if they ever announced him by his full name again he would charge them an extra 10 guineas for his services.

Shaw's long correspondence with the BBC, often strained but always witty, is the subject of an programme being broadcast on Radio 4 tonight. The letters reveal GBS as a most unwilling broadcaster, at least in the very early days of radio. He was introduced to the BBC by Shakespeare plays in 1923. Shaw wrote back calling the drama producers "hopeless idiots" and urging them to "scrap all that foolish twaddle".

He was eventually persuaded to read one of his own plays, *O'Flaherty's VC*, which he considered "rather a lark". Getting Shaw to give a talk was another matter. He consistently refused because of the BBC's insistence that expressions of opinion should be free from argument and controversy. "Until the childish absurdity is dropped from the programme, I will not take the BBC seriously," he wrote.

James Reston

Shuffle may have left Mr Ford with a losing hand

One of America's leading commentators says both Dr Kissinger and Mr Rumsfeld objected to changes which did not reorganize the Cabinet but disorganized it

Washington, Nov 5

Some Presidents lead the country and some merely give the appearance of leading it, and President Ford's slapdash shuffle of his face cards falls in the latter category. He did not reorganize his administration but disorganized it.

Leaving politics aside for a minute, an original idea in this town, there is simply no way for these new men to get control of the Senate and master the devilish intricacies of vast organizations such as the Department of Defense, the Department of Commerce, and the Central Intelligence Agency in the short time left to them before the election.

It will be Thanksgiving at the earliest before this divided and hag-ridden Democratic Congress approves all these switches, with Mr Ronald Reagan tossing the continuity of stability Mr Ford felt he needed after the fall of Mr Nixon, and will need in the coming months while he is running around the country seeking a new term. It takes at least a year for a new boy to know the place, and Mr Rumsfeld and Mr Bush will be spending most of this time on Capitol Hill trying to give answers before they have had time to master the questions.

There is no doubt about who was responsible for this upheaval. When George Jones and spiracies and is bubbling now with theories that Dr Henry Kissinger or Mr Donald Rumsfeld tossed Dr Schlesinger, Mr Rockefeller and Mr Colby to the photographers.

Dr Kissinger and Mr Rumsfeld are not above playing these executive-suit games, the fact is that both Dr Kissinger and Mr Rumsfeld objected, for different reasons, to Mr Ford's sudden and dramatic decision to reorganize the Cabinet.

Mr Rumsfeld was out at RFK stadium last Sunday afternoon watching the hot war between the Redskins and the Dallas Cowboys when the President called him from Florida and traded him across the Potomac to the Pentagon. Jones and spiracies and is bubbling now with theories that Dr Henry Kissinger or Mr Donald Rumsfeld tossed Dr Schlesinger, Mr Rockefeller and Mr Colby to the photographers.

Dr Kissinger's objections were more subtle as usual. He has

had his differences with Dr Schlesinger over reaching an accommodation with the Soviet Union on the limitation of strategic arms, and he has not been amused by reading in the papers and hearing from the Hill of proposals by Dr Schlesinger which were not argued out within the National Security Council. But he respects Dr Schlesinger's intelligence, and while nobody around here seems to believe it, my information is that he opposes Dr Schlesinger's dismissal. After all, this pleases Moscow, but displeases Peking, and forces Dr Kissinger to explain the muddle to both.

Mr Ford, however, had his own reasons for asserting his authority, and while it is treacherous to speculate on personal motives, some facts seem clear and relevant. There has lately been a sense of drift in the country, even an articulate longing for strong leadership. And sometimes in the past few weeks, faced by the fiscal crisis in New York and the conservative challenge of Mr Reagan, he apparently decided that the nice-guy image was not good enough. So he hit New York hard, and after he was benched for a week by a bad cold, reading his critical reviews and sliding polls in the press, he came back to the Oval Office and changed the question.

Now the "good guy" is the "take charge" guy, and in the present absence of leadership, it may work. But you could make a plausible argument that almost everybody has lost in this turmoil.

The resignations of Mr Dave Packard as Republican finance chairman and Mr Rockefeller as Vice-Presidential candidate next year have given a sense of disorientation and even of impending defeat.

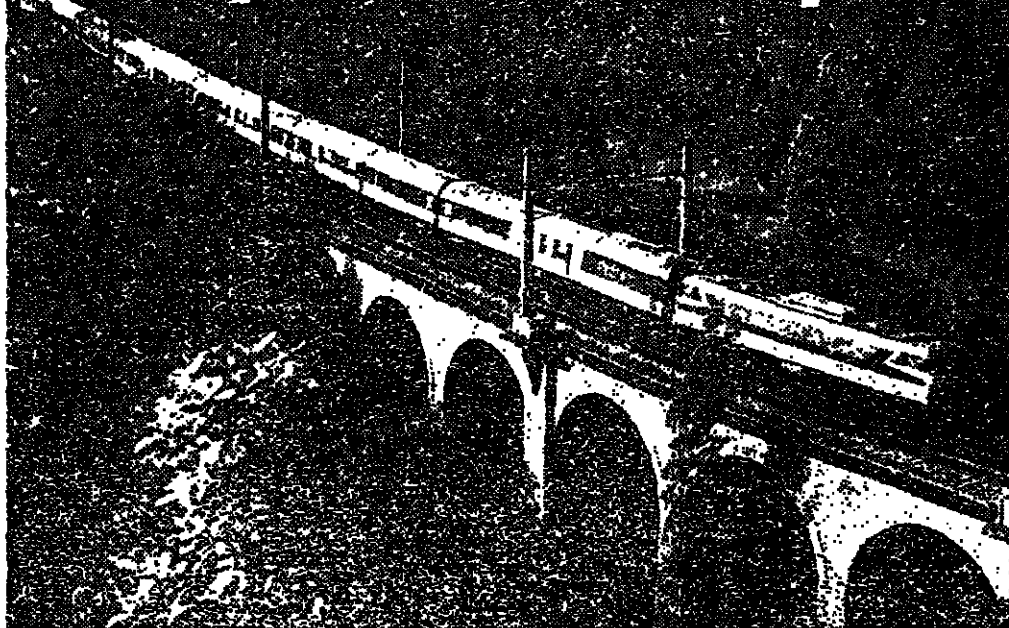
The dismissal of Dr Schlesinger at the Pentagon, far from consoling Mr Reagan and the Republicans, conservatives, has removed the most knowledgeable critic of Dr Kissinger's policy of accommodation with the Soviet Union. I am not appalled, said Mr Reagan, which is the most presumptuous political move since Richard Hague said: "I am the law".

And even Dr Kissinger, who has emerged from these Halloween antics with his position intact, his two major critics, Dr Schlesinger and Mr Rumsfeld, moved from their main centres of influence, and he has been blamed for a reorganization he opposed, and become the major target of the right and a personal issue in the presidential campaign.

He is not happy with this, or with the withdrawal of Mr Rockefeller from the world figure in the first place, but the President has proved his machismo and evidently feels liberated and even exhilarated by throwing his bombs. The only trouble is that it was so sudden, personal and even capricious, and now all he has to do is live with the consequences.

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such statements as "Mr Hitler did not begin the war; we did," and "Hitler is as sure that God is on his side as Lord Halifax is that God is on ours." His voice was not heard again until 1946, when he delivered his 90th birthday address.

Bed and bird

Officials at the Department of Industry were in a bit of a bother this week because of a question which appeared on the House of Lords order paper, for reply on Friday. The Earl of Kinnoull wanted to know what progress had been made in the development of the Hoverbird. The snag was that nobody in the Department knew what a Hoverbird was. In a condition of mild panic, they phoned the good Earl. "So sorry," he said. "My awful writing. Should have been 'Hoverbird'. The Hoverbird is a horizontal bed built on the principle of the Hovercraft. Patients who have severe burns or the like, and who thus find contact with sheets and mattresses painful, can rest on a cushion of air, which is far more comfortable. The bed has been under test

for some years and, says the Earl, a number of foreign buyers have shown interest. Yet he fears that work on it may be suspended through lack of Government funding. Hence his question, which appeared in its correct form in yesterday's order paper.

The Industry Department learned this with unrestrained delight. For it enabled them to carry out that favourite civil service manoeuvre—pushing the responsibility on to somebody else.

If it is a hospital bed, they reasoned, it must be the responsibility of the Department of Health. So they turned the question over to Barbara Castle, harrassed official who will answer it on Friday.

Hedging

People who are interested in saving Britain's face gather at London Zoo to discuss the art of hedging and dithering. The occasion was the publication of a book about former by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, who are bringing out a series of handbooks on disappearing country crafts.

Alan Brooks, the renaissance who compiled the book, says that thousands of millionaires have been lost and more will go from the pockets of the country. The hedger, he thinks, is an extinct bird, one of the few that there is not a hedge-well-hedge anywhere in London.

Farmers who gave up 25 years ago in favour of trimming are now finding their hedges are gone, at the bottom and growing in the middle. Brooks says that hedging is a dying art, and that it will have to be revived if way of life is to continue.



presented yesterday by and Mr Varley to the National Development Council marks of lengthy and redrafting to take differing views within and the Government. is a document that nial impression of atch up to the gravity omic and industrial cing the Government ntry. s, though in muted and without great the assertion already her places that the Enterprise Board and rements for indivi are expected to role in the regenera British economy. It more extensive and ork by the various ie National Economic Office in producing and forecasts for industries. It does not, ve any clear indica- the Government will the light of this ata.

ways the document is resting for the things not say. The Government committed to the economic and industrial, first, because of election manifesto and, because of the implicitings with the tradition.

HITLAM IS

stitutional crisis in s apparently being the strangest, yet the circumstances, convenient form of n—the public opinion en Mr Fraser, the leader, forced the e delaying of government supply in the e polls promised him a victory in the election houses of parliament he and his Liberal ty party colleagues would have to follow, n the past ten days been a decisive turn electoral sentiment as by the polls. The t vote is back to per cent and is level igh that for the opposition is widely assumed in that this means that rate is turning against tional showdown, at the grounds of Mr choosing.

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unions over their support for the social contract. This document, however, talks about economic planning, and Mr. Hargreaves and Mr. Varley have produced a formulation for it which is but a shadow of what their more radical colleagues might have wished. Further, there is no suggestion that the extension of public ownership has any part to play in this Government's strategy for the improvement of the national performance, whatever part it may still have to play in the Government's political programme. Nor is there any suggestion that the public purse can be used to any great extent to regenerate British industry.

As a programme for action, in other words, the document has little to offer. Its contribution will, therefore, be limited to the impact that it may make on the minds of the general public and on organized labour in particular. For its character is that of an exhortation, couched in direct, not strikingly original terms. For that it is important that this Government should say in public, above all to its supporters, such things as that there must be an end to restrictive practices by employers, and overmanning and disruptive industrial action; or that there must in future be fewer changes of economic policy and relatively less expenditure

substitute for an election but in Australia, where voting is compulsory, they are held to be very reliable.

This is a body blow to the pretensions of the Senate. Technically it is within its rights. But in facing the swing in public feeling, it seems itself about to create the convention that did not previously exist—that the upper house does not reject, or even delay, money bills. The opposition may dig in, but it now seems more likely that it will reverse itself, whether individual opposition senators decide to let the budget through by abstaining or whether the floor, or whether Mr. Fraser makes so manly confession that he misjudged the position.

His campaign since the Senate vote has been misdirected by undue concentration upon the scandals in the government rather than on the state of the economy. The narrower issue is hardly one on which a senate so closely divided, can convincingly plunge the country into turmoil. It looked too much as if he was only after Mr Whitlam's job, not making an issue of great moment. (Mr Whitlam and Mr Fraser are at one in their denunciations of

The central issue is whether and how the productivity of British industry can be reversed. In the postwar pattern of over-managing and over-producing, the worker is continued there is no way in which the trend towards an increasingly low wage economy, in relation to other countries, can be reversed. Equally, there is no way in those circumstances, in which the level of capital investment can be improved. The truth is that restrictive practices and action to preserve jobs as an end in itself have precisely the opposite effect to that which is intended. Except in the shortest term, the level of employment and the level of wages in the British economy can only be improved by the introduction of new techniques and higher productivity.

The acceptance of this message and truth will not be achieved by a single Government document. It involves changing many deeply ingrained attitudes and instincts. There are, however, at least some signs that the serious economic situation is beginning to have such an effect on the rank and file of British industry. The process of discussion at a variety of levels that will be started by yesterday's statement could play a part in speeding that process.

the media for treating them as a couple of power-sick machine politicians), Mr Whitlam yesterday felt able to say that he would not dissolve for another year and shut down all negotiations on compromise. An election for half the Senate cannot, of course, be postponed beyond June. Whether Mr Whitlam's retention of the initiative will enable him then to win control of it may depend on how Mr Fraser handles his failure—he is already being compared with Mr Heath.

Mr Whitlam's triumph should strengthen him with his party but may not long hold the country. Australians may not want a constitutional crisis, but they do not want an economic crisis either. Unemployment, now 300,000 is expected by pessimists among economists to approach 500,000 (equivalent to two million in Britain). Unless he is rescued by a world trade upturn, he may find his electoral comeback even on paper is shortlived. Mr Fraser then may claim that he was right, severe as was the surgery he recommended—but that will depend on whether his party, to which he has contributed yet another leadership blunder, keeps him at its head.

The statement that "The crime of import controls is the unwarranted restriction which they entail on the freedom of the ordinary citizen to protect himself against the depredations of inflation and, especially, of domestic British monopolies, including labour

monopolies and the subsequent concentration of wealth. The production and the earning of income are a prior condition of consumption. Unless the government take steps to strengthen the balance of payments which is the condition of continuing ends, it will soon be forced to reduce real income and production. That will mean restriction of consumption, and to that extent the freedom of consumption which imports will be rendered academic.

Import restrictions would help us to avoid this course and would sustain production. Exchange depreciation, which would increase the balance of payments, would not now do the job both because it acts too slowly and because it would aggravate the wage-price spiral and thereby intensify the depressing inflation to which we refer.

I would not advocate import restrictions (combined with budgetary restraint) if there were a better way out. But with exchange depreciation ruled out, the only way to persist with free trade and a floating exchange rate whilst relying on fiscal and monetary restraint alone is to put everything right. What such a policy would do to inflation is another matter. There is no need debating the fact that such a policy pushed far enough, would (a) reduce imports and square the balance of payments; (b) cause the bankruptcy and collapse of a further large slice of British manufacturing industry; and (c) reduce the labour force probably to the two million mark.

There is an obvious risk that these developments would destroy the social and political stability of this country and would lure out the possibility of our restoring our industrial position for a very long time.

No one should now dismiss import

Universities in gloom

From Professor R. Allen Brown
Sir, Institutions, not least univer-
sities, consist largely of individuals,
so may I say for myself in response
to your depressing editorial of
yesterday's date (November 3) that
I am not a pessimist, I say, and
that if I were it would not be for
the reasons which you list.

In the last resort, it does not
require much in the way of public
funds to teach, nor even to do
research—at least in the humanities
(the things that matter most).
If it is true, as you say, and
“over-optimistic forecasts about
future demand for university
places . . . have had to be revised
“downwards”, then thank the Lord
for that.

One has not been allowed to say
so much lately. But more day
worse, and that, of course, is one
reason for that “loss of the public’s
esteem” which you mention.

Yours faithfully,
R. ALLEN BROWN,
King's College London,
Strand, WC2.
November 4.

From the President of Queens' College, Cambridge

Sir, Your leader "Universities in Gloom" correctly attributes much of the demoralization of the universities to the decline in their reputation with the general public, the Civil Service (especially the Civil Service of Education and Science) and the Government. University teachers have never expected or received the highest financial rewards but in the past they have found compensation in the knowledge that society accorded to them certain respect for doing a job which it valued.

From Mr Ian Milton
Sir, It is unfortunate that instead of allowing a reasoned reply to the stream of hysterical abuse by Bernard Levin last week (October 29) you have chosen to publish a further series of his bigoted misrepresentations (November 5).
The branch and delegate structure proposed for Equity (and overwhelmingly endorsed at several general meetings) has been put forward not by CRAPE, but by Equity's official Rules Revision Committee. This was probably

among the most representative bodies possible under our present structure, being composed of elected representatives of every area and specialist committee, 10 councillors, and the officers. It included such eminent right-wingers as Derek Bond and Marius Goring, both of whom made substantial contributions to its proposals.

Contrary to Mr. Levin's distortions, our existing rules are regarded as archaic, undemocratic and inefficient by all but a small minority.

From Mr Peter Moores
Sir, I read with alarm in your
obituary column on October 30 of
the death of the Chairman of the
largest family business in the
country.
A hasty telephone call assured
me that my father, Mr John Moores,
is still alive and well. We are
proud of our Chairman and Found-
er, and his achievement in making
The Littlewoods Organisation
Limited into what is—by all pub-
lished accounts—the largest
privately owned family business in
the country.
Yours faithfully,
PETER MOORES,
The Littlewoods Organisation
Limited,
JM Centre,
Old Hall Street,
Liverpool.

controls

restrictions unless he has rationally assessed these risks and chosen to take them. It is not helpful to take side-step the risks with the *ex cathedra* assertion that in Britain we suffer an "irrational phobia" about unemployment.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT NEILD,
5 Cranmer Road,
Cambridge.
November 4.

From Mr. M. A. Hill
Sir, The TUC is urging the introduction of more import controls. But Mr. Murray in your columns, it would be misleading to suppose that the TUC was "protectionist" because their demand is for selective, rather than for blanket duties and for temporary, rather than for permanent periods.

The distinction which Mr Murray seeks to draw cannot hold unless the accepted meaning of the word "protectionist" is to be changed. Its traditional meaning is something like this. Any government interference between the seller or buyer of a commodity is protectionist, unless it can be justified on either of two grounds. Either the normal rate of the market is threatened upon the threat or outbreak of war, or the importation into Britain of goods so heavily subsidized by a foreign government that no British competitor can produce: in other words, the goods are being "dumped".

Thus to follow the traditional meaning of the word "protectionist" in relation to trade, unless the TUC promotes its demands on either of these two exceptional grounds it is urging the adoption of protectionism. Admittedly its demand can be distinguished from the demands of those diehard reactionaries who, around the turn of the century, supported protectionism all over the board and for ever. This distinction is the only one which Mr Murray is entitled to draw and there is little point in so doing because the diehards and their doctrines are long dead and forgotten.

Yours faithfully,
M. A. HILL,
104 Earls Court Road, W8.
October 31.

From Chancellor E. Garth Moore
Sir, When a bishop of the Church of England gives the appearance, whatever his intentions, of seeking to stab the two Archbishops in the back at a moment of crisis, the event is obviously news, and bad news at that. Nor is it improved by the ~~fact~~ ^{fact} of the bishop's apologia ~~from~~ ^{from} the bishop and his legal secretary.

I do not wish to extend further the

unattractively "pious" which, being
unpleasant to the ear, is not
as often intended. I wish instead to
switch the limelight away and on to
the only aspect of the sorry affair
out of which we may derive some
benefit, and that is the growing
tendency to a heresy which has been
so insidiously propagated for a
number of years by a fringe element
within the Church that the unwary
may be beginning to believe it. This
heresy is the loss of the voluntary
stance can be equated to Christi-
anity. Nothing could be further from
the truth.

A political programme, whether
of the right or of the left, whether
sound or unsound, is largely a mat-
ter of expediency and must rely on
compulsion for its implementation.
Christian morality by contrast is
unconcerned with expediency and
insists on the moral basis of action
on the voluntary acceptance of obliga-
tions by individuals who are en-
dowed with free will and, therefore,
free to decline the obligation. For
example, socialism and, to a lesser
degree, other political ideologies, say
in effect, "You shall share your
wealth with others". Christianity
says, "There are times when you
ought voluntarily to share".

Because of this vital distinction
between the two, the two Arch-
bishops were wise to refrain from
advocating any political solution to
the present crisis. They saw that the
root of the trouble is a spiritual
malaise and they went to the heart
of the matter by calling for in each
individual a change of heart. This
is the true Christian approach. It is
salutary to know, as now we do,
who stands with them beneath the
Christian banner and who is against
them.

obedient servant,
E. TARTH MOORE, Chancellor of
Durham, Southwark and
Gloucester.

November 5.

From Mr. J. N. Fisher
Sir, Mr David Faulk, the Registrar
of the Bishop of Southwark's
Registry, whose letter you publish
today (November 4), deludes him-
self in believing that the said
article, which is the only leading
article can have added anything to
the sense of outrage which the
Bishop's article will have caused in
Christians who heard the plain text
reported on the wireless or read it
in the newspapers.

Not believing that the
article can in no sense be regarded
as an attack on the Archbishop,
there must be many more, myself
included, whose instant and con-
tinuing impression is that, first and
foremost, the article was a pain-
fully disloyal attack on the
Archbishop and the Government
of the Church of England's titular head,
the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Many, having long hoped for just

such a lead, find it unbearable that the Bishop, whatever his political affiliations, should at once and as fully as possible have announced his refusal to support his own leader.

Your article took this the most important point and I was sorry that it elicited no comment from the Bishop's Registrar.

Yours truly,
J. N. FISHER,
Ridge Lea, Oak Avenue,
Sevenoaks, Kent.
November 4.

From the Headmaster of Archbishop Holgate's Grammar School

Sir, Mr Holbrock invokes Dickens as one who would show how individuals could transcend an individualistic society. Surely he is also aware that Dickens was deeply con-

Public debate on defence
From Professor Alastair Buchan
 Sir, Like Mr George Younger and Sir William Hawthorne (November 3), I found Mary Kaldor's article on defence ill-informed in places, but I would like to echo the Master of Churchill's reminder that she is not only entitled to her views but that defence is as much a legitimate arena of public debate as education or housing. It is also true that the technological aspects that underlie many of its assumptions.

It is true that there are some areas of "high" and "development"

which governments hold closely to their chest—and submarine warfare is one, the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons used to be another—so that the politician, the academic and the journalist are in those limited areas partly dependent on the judgment of “experts”. But, thanks partly to the American constitutional process, most aspects of national defence and international security are now susceptible of public analysis and discussion. It is a complex and often a depressing field of study but it is there.

From Mr Mac Hassings

Sir, While Bernard Levin has been plotting to shoot my dog (November 4), his may well be one of the cats at which I have been hurling broken china and half bricks all these years as they defecate in my garden, dig up my flower beds, howl horribly on my wall in the dark watches of the night, and taunt mice before their final execution.

Cats have no love for any man. They slink secretly about their murderous business in the darkness, and accept bed and board indifferently from anyone foolish enough to indulge them. They have a particular fondness for a certain species of urban man who likes animals only if they enter his sitting

and wrong" that Christian people should rush madly into opposing camps of those who claim that we must put all our emphasis on individuals, and those who want to turn our attention to the need for social reform. I see no reason to doubt that Jesus took it for granted that redeemed individuals would fight for a better society. I am therefore sure that Donald Coggan and Mervyn Stockwood make similar assumptions.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD FRITH,
Headmaster's House,
Archbishop Holgate's Grammar
School,
York.

From Mr W. H. Gore
Sir, Having read Dr Mervyn Stock-
wood's article, in the Morning Star,
it appears to me that the noble
Bishop, falling into the fatal
autocratic authoritarian habit of
equating himself with God.
I have been privileged, during
my lifetime, to live and work with
many men and children of
widely differing social and economic
levels in many parts of the world.
I have never found anywhere, at
any time, that high moral values
were the prerequisite of any par-
ticular economic level. I
have found many men, women and
children, in every level possessing
high moral values and living on
what could only be termed, a high
moral plane, as well as some, in
each level, who did not even under-
stand morality. The proportion of
one with the other does not appear
to vary with the varying social and
economic levels.
Dr Stockwood's remedy for the
ills of our society would appear to
be that there is sickness even if it
kills the patient.
Yours faithfully,
W. H. GORE,
36 Victoria Avenue,
Hull, Yorkshire.

From Mr Raphael Loeve
Sir, The verbiage in your columns regarding the Archbishop's call amuses me. Either one believes in free will, or one does not; if one does, one supports and applauds Dr Cogan's initiative, irrespective of whether or not one owns to religious convictions. Doubtless the Bishop of Southwark does so own, and perhaps regrets not having used language (I did not see his article) that can be construed or misrepresented as implying other-

I personally do hold religious convictions, my own faith being Judaism, which is the same as Christianity. God Himself created man's "evil inclination". He likewise provided its antidote through revelation (Torah). The Christian position, according to me, must be the same. So are Aristotle's which can leave God out and talk in terms not of the "evil inclination" but of the component of concupiscent acquisitiveness (epithimeria) in man and man's tripartite soul, the rational element in which can surmount its promptings. It's as simple as that. God's first question to man was "where are thou?" and answered by the rabbi to mean "Whose side are you on—mine, or the serpent's?"^a

Yours, etc,
RABBI S. LOEWIE
50 Gurney Drive, N2

From Mr David Candler
Sir, If anyone is in any doubt
whether the Church of England can
still be accurately ascribed as "the
Conservative Party at prayer", then
they need only read some of the
recent correspondence in *The
Times*.
Yours faithfully,
DAVID CANDLER,
67 Northumberland Road,
New Barnet,
Hertfordshire.
November 5.

From Mr Peter Edwards
Sir, Render unto Marx . . .
Yours faithfully,
PETER EDWARDS,
23 Gunnersbury Manor,

I spent some of the best years of my life bludgeoning or cajoling reluctant ministers, glum chiefs-of-staff or tight-lipped civil servants in many countries into understanding that defence and security policy must use the same arcane character if they were to get democratic support for their policies, and that everything would be gained by getting correct figures about expenditure, and that it was pointless to put it in circulation. This battle was won a decade ago, and it is really absurd of Mary Kaldor to develop a new conspiracy theory that the defence debate is still linked to a small group of people who are not allowed to question their own assumptions. If she would, perhaps, foray from an institute devoted to the study of international organizations to one of the universities where defence and strategic studies are sorely taught and debated, she might revise her

I am, etc,
ALASTAIR BUCHAN, Montague
Burton Professor of International
Relations,
40 Wellington Square,
Oxford.

room without dirtying his anti-macassars.

Now, dogs on the other hand.... There is something wholly delightful about muddy paws on the carpet and the smell of wet Labrador in the back of the car. To walk with a dog is to share his excitement and pleasure and curiosity. Dogs are honest where cats are crooked. Dogs (excluding beasty pekes and lap-dogs and other honorary cats) are down to earth realists. Dogs are modest while cats radiate the same air of superiority as seaside land-ladies who read *The Times*.

As for the spaniel that bit Mr Levin, one can hardly fault its impeccable instincts.

Yours faithfully,
MAX HASTINGS,
13 First Avenue, SW14.
November 4.

Langley v Campbell

normally came in the way of the ordinary general practitioner, but if a general practitioner knew that a patient he thought had influenza was coming from the tropics, and was not getting better, it should have entered his head that it might be a tropical disease. He would not have been capable of diagnosing malaria, but he should be alerted to the possibility that it might be malaria, and he should refer the patient to a specialist.

The doctor had fallen short of the standard of care that should have been observed by a general practitioner. He was negligent, and therefore he was negligent. The rest of the evidence supported that holding for members of the community. The Lordship believed that that not only was the doctor told that the patient had just returned from the tropics, but that they had told him the patient had suffered from malaria during the war, and that the patient was not getting better, and that test should be taken. As the patient deteriorated the family doctor took a second opinion, and the doctor told them he had already discussed the case with another doctor, and that the patient was not suffering from malaria.

On July 15 the family called in a doctor who had the patient transferred at once to hospital, where two Asian doctors were consulted and diagnosed malaria. The patient died on July 28. Medical evidence showed that the patient had been suffering from malaria for 10 to 14 days before July 15th, and treatment put in hand, and the patient would have been able to recover, and the widow was entitled to damages of £15,000.

James H. B. Black and Keith L. Brasseur & Oakley.

Before Lord Wilberforce, Lord Simon of Glaisdale, Lord Cross of Chelsea, Lord Edmund-Davies and Lord Fraser of Tullyhalton.

and of payment was Swiss francs.
The seller was a Swiss national
and the yarn was produced by his
firm in Switzerland. It was
the subject of an invoice of 1971
under five invoices, each of which
stated the price in Swiss francs.
The English company (the buyers)
did not pay any money to the
seller, but accepted by way of part pay-
ment two bills of exchange drawn
in Switzerland, but they were dis-
honoured on presentation.
The seller's action was begun on
April 1972, claiming the
amount of the price or, alterna-
tively, the amount due on the bills.
expressed in each case in the ster-
ling equivalent of the sum due in
Swiss francs. The court held that
payment should have been made.
Thereafter the proceedings took

a remarkable course. On November 26, 1974, the Court of Appeals (the Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice of Appeal) in *Horwich* announced their decision in *Horwich* (1974) QB 416—a case involving a claim in German currency. Although faced with a unanimous decision of the House in the *Horwich* case, the court, on the foreign currency claim, judgment stating, to which foreign currency must be converted as at the date when the debt became due, the court held, in *Horwich*, that the court could give a money judgment in foreign currency when that currency was the currency of the contract. Lord Justice Lawton, dissenting, considered that he was bound to follow the House of Lords' decision, as second ground of decision, the court held that where the creditor resided in an English country, the creditor was obliged (sic) by article 106 of the Treaty of Rome to give a judgment in the currency of the contract. That was the currency of the contract.

Mr Justice Bristow found himself in a difficult position. On the one hand was the *Swiss Bank*, the other the *Havana Railway*. The court clearly precluded judgment in Swiss francs or the sterling equivalent at any date on which the *Swiss Bank* was due. The other was *Schorch Merit*. He decided to follow *Havana Railway* and that *Schorch Merit* was.

It was submitted to the Court of Appeal that the court, on indisputable facts, was bound to follow *Havana Railway*. The court declined to do so. It held that the majority decision in *Schorch Merit* and that it was binding on the court. It therefore varied Mr Justice Bristow's judgment and judgment for the seller for the sum claimed in Swiss francs. The buyer appealed to the House of Lords.

It was clear that some distortion of the judicial process had been brought about. His Lordship had to reaffirm that the court had to follow the decisions of their Lordships' House which had been reviewed by the House of Lords under the Declaration of 1966.

cell rule. If his Lordship were inclined to question some of the arguments used in the speeches, he would not say that, in the circumstances, the decision and the authorities presented in support of the decision was wrong or open to dissection or explanation.

What their Lordships could and should do was to consider whether that clear and comparatively simple decision could be regarded as a precedent today. For that purpose it was permissible to examine the speeches in order to understand the considerations or reasons of opinion that were based, so to see whether there had emerged fresh considerations which might justify a departure from those opinions and so might appeal to their successors.

His Lordship cited passages from the earlier speeches in the *Essex* and *Railway* cases—the leading opinion of Viscount Simonds' observation added by Lord Radcliffe; concerning the *Essex* case, the dissenting opinion of Lord Reid stating that "the reason for the . . . rule is . . . primarily procedural"; and the dissenting opinion of Lord Somervell, with its emphatic statement: "And if there is one thing clear in our law, it is that the claim must be made in sterling and not in foreign judgments in dollars any more."

[illegible][illegible]

(4) In *The Halcyon* the Government argued that the Government's position in *Brandenburg* was not binding on the Court. The Court's opinion in *Brandenburg* contained the following language:

"The acceptance of the proposition that United States dollar currency might be regarded as a money within the meaning of the word 'property' would mean that the courts could adapt their procedure to give effect to foreign money claims as a special case."

On the argument based on article 106 of the Treaty of Rome, His Lordship could understand the argument, in the search for a principled basis for the law, but he considered that it should not now be followed, in view of the importance of the decision which the Treaty represents. Although not a member of the majority, His Lordship agreed with the argument based on the Treaty, was personally accepted by the Court, and was expressed in the *Appeal* in *Schorf Meier*, by the majority of the Court, and the parties to the present appeal.

His Lordship had strong reservations on the use made by the Court of the proposition that the Treaty was not in conflict. If the Court

(in *Schorsch Meier*) had been arguments on the other side equally as strong. It is not clear how similar to that of the present case the *Schorsch Meier* case would have been brought forward on the direct applicability of a treaty article, its bearing on any question of the validity of the contract, claims might be made in the courts of member states or its relevance at all to the ascertainment of the law applicable to the contract. The arguments seemed to have been unappreciated. Any other court in which such issues might arise would have been bound to refer them to the European Court for clarification. In the present case no argument based directly on the applicability of the treaty could be considered as available to the seller.

(6) His Lordship agreed with what Lord Simon had said about the *bona fide* *cassante ratione cessante* issue.

Before deciding where the House should stand with regard to the *bona fide* *cassante ratione cessante* issue, general observations to be made. In a case like the present justly demanded that the creditor should not be allowed to make his claim in sterling. His contract was nothing to do with sterling; had bargained for his own currency; only the substance of the obligations depended on the debt of the contract (Swiss law). The *bona fide* *cassante ratione cessante* prevailed on procedural matters; it must surely be wrong in principle to allow procedure to affect the substance of the contract.

stituted in the present case to relieve the whole field of the law regarding foreign currency obligations of the law by a currency decision were made.

His Lordship then stated that, in order to claim for foreign currency obligations should be made, and gave his reasons for choosing that as the date for conversion the date when the creditor first became aware of the judgment in terms of sterling. That date in his view was not nearest to securing to the creditor exactly what he had lost.

A rule in that form would not give rise to any serious procedural difficulty. Practically, the Court's decision in the Supreme Court could work out suitable solutions.

Difficult as the whole matter was, if once a clear conclusion was now to be, declaration of it in the House was appropriate. If the law on the topic was to be overthrown, it was to be overthrown in years, not to case.

His Lordship could not accept the suggestion that because a *res* was long established only legal and not equitable change it. I posed the question whether legislative reform, at least prompt and comprehensive reform, in the case of foreign debts was a more probable. Questions as to the payment of debts or of damages depended so much on individual differences of facts and circumstances that it was not probable that any progressive solutions in the courts. Their Lordships had an opportunity to reach such a solution. Here it would be a *casus*. *Hanna Railway* and *Dismiss* appeal.

LORD SIMON, dissenting, considered that the majority of the type of cases which *McCach* had misapprehended and he applied the maxim *cessante ratio cessat ipsa lex*, which was not a rule of law but a principle of law. If it appeared to them in the circumstances in which it was framed had changed.

His Lordship's main ground of dissent was that the majority in the *Hanna* rule should now overruled was that this type issue was unsuitable for law reform. The judgment was a sort of case where a wide range of advice, official and also of commercial, was required.

LORD CLYDE, Lord Edmund Davies and Lord Fraser delivered speeches concurring in dismissing the appeal.

Solicitors: Bowles, Cotton and Rogers; Gullies & Lewis Barnes.

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Customs and Excise Commissioners v Thorne Electrical Industries Ltd

The House of Lords (Lord Simon of Glaisdale, Lord Morris of Borth-y-Ark, Lord Kilbrandon, Lord Salmon and Lord Fraser of Tullybelton) dismissed "the appeal by the company against the business, including the rental of television sets, of The Electrical Industries Ltd, British Kelsay and Co. (Limited) Ltd, and the field that on the construction of section 7(8) of the Finance Act, 1972 (which introduced value added tax on goods and services) was made under the subsection, V was payable, as from April 1, 1972, on periodical rental payments made from hired television sets, even though the hiring agreement was made and the set was installed before July 1, 1972 when the Finance Act received the Royal Assent.

The case of Mrs B. Freeman who signed an agreement for hire of a set from Thorne on 19. 1972, was treated as typical.

LORD FRASER said that it was whether the company was a "taxpayer" who made the Value Added Tax (General) Regulations, 1972, make regulations applicable to the rental of television sets. The issue of the Finance Act, 1972

VAT hirings

companies said that the word "where" goods or services supplied" in section 7(b) looks to the future and referred to goods supplied after the date of the contract. The commissioners agreed that the word "are supplied" described, in fact, goods on hire. The conclusion of the panel was confirmed after July 27, 1937, could be made the subject of regulations made under section 7(b). It was stated that it might have begun on that date.

The crucial questions were: when the letting of goods on hire was a continuous transaction, for if it was a one-off transaction, it could only be covered by section 7(a). If it was signed or the set red, on July 19 or 20, before Act came into force.

Mr. Loring and Mr. Conquest were asked as to their views referring to the commission process that followed the act of signing the hire set or the date when the regulations were intra of the commissioners and dated 14/12 effectively in that the date when the regulations which continued to be set after July 27, 1937, were issued as the result of the regulations.

It was stated that the penalties were liable claimed by the co-

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Union chief 'not hopeful' after Riccardio meeting over Chrysler

John Townsend
John Riccardio, chairman of Chrysler Corporation, is expected to fly back to Detroit today and report to the Chrysler Corporation board.
In the last few days Mr Riccardio has made clear in his meetings with officials that responsibility for the future of the Chrysler Corporation lies with the Government and City institutions. At his last meeting with Mr Varley on Tuesday, he was told there was little point in waiting for a quick government reply.
Mr Riccardio is unlikely to return to the United Kingdom before next week and certainly not until the Cabinet has discussed fully the various choices for a rescue plan.
He has stressed to Mr Varley that Chrysler is a multi-million-pound capital injection in the United Kingdom company if its future plans, which include the introduction of a new British-assembled car in 1977, are to be fulfilled.
Clearly Mr Riccardio has left the Prime Minister with little doubt that drastic measures are necessary. Mr Wilson told the Commons on Tuesday he had heard nothing during the previous night's discussions at Chequers that would cause him to alter the gravity of the situation.
Signs of growing anger among representatives of Chrysler's 27,000 British workers were apparent yesterday. Shop stewards from Linwood, where Chrysler makes the Imp and Humber range of cars, sent a telegram to Mr Varley requesting a meeting.
Four stewards, including Mr John Carty, the plant convenor, were travelling to London to seek an early reaction from Mr Eric Fox, Transport and General Workers' Union convenor at the Ryton assembly plant near Coventry, where the Avenger range is produced, accused the company of "playing musical chairs" with their jobs.
Riccardio's confrontation with the union chief, who is at Chrysler's shop floor, and the group of constituents include number of car workers, late at the House of Commons after a day of mounting anger about his move.
g his week in Britain, Chrysler chairman has had to keep his meetings as possible and suggest-erday that he had to the United States an angry reaction from towards at Chrysler's assembly plants in y and Linwood, Ren- night's meeting was d after a request from or industry, that a sector

OECD clash of views on world trade recovery

From Peter Norman
Paris, Nov 5
The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is at odds with some of its leading members over the prospects for a recovery in world trade.
This was disclosed at the end of a two-day meeting of the OECD's third working party committee on balance of payments problems, by its chairman, Dr Omar Emminger, the vice-president of the West German Federal Bank.
Dr Emminger told journalists that the national delegations of four or five main OECD members represented in the third working party were more optimistic on their growth prospects, and therefore the world trade outlook next year, than the OECD Secretariat.
Dr Emminger did not disclose details of the OECD's position which is based on growth forecasts for the individual member states. This is due for final clarification ahead of this month's economic summit at Rambouillet near Paris.
However, he did give an indication of the disparity, in the case of West Germany where a tentative OECD estimate puts real economic growth next year as low as 1.6 per cent, against his own estimate for 3 to 5 per cent growth—and the West German government's assumption of a 5 per cent rise in real gross national product next year.
According to Dr Emminger, this gap has arisen because the OECD's forecasters had not had access to the latest German economic data. He said the most recent figures for industrial orders and production in September confirmed that the German economy had begun to move upwards in August. He denied that in the two-day third working party meeting, Germany had come under pressure from other national delegations to do more to reflate its domestic economy.
Dr Emminger said the recovery of economic activity in a number of OECD countries, led by the United States and backed to a certain degree by Japan and more recently West Germany, means that the area's overall current account balance of payments position will move back into deficit in the second half of this year after being in equilibrium in the first six months.
German Unemployment Rises: Unemployment in Germany rose to 1,651,100 in October from 1,605,500 in September, the Federal Labour Office said. The number of workers on short time increase by just over 78,000 to 716,500, it said.—Reuter.

Rates plan threatens dearer gas

By Roger Viehove
Energy Correspondent
Gas prices may have to rise by between 3 and 4 per cent next year if controversial new proposals to increase the nationalised industries' rate bills are accepted.
Five public corporations, British Gas, the Electricity Council, British Rail, London Transport, and the British Waterways Board, have been asked to comment on a new formula for calculating the rates on their "operational" areas such as power stations, pumping works, and railway tracks.
British Gas has already reacted angrily, since the new proposals would add an extra £25m to £30m a year on its rates bill, a figure that represents a 3 to 4 per cent increase in prices.
Reaction from the Electricity Council, the largest ratepayer in the country, has also been hostile. Under the new formula, the rates on its power stations and overhead lines and sub-stations would rise from £154m to £175m.
Even before the Government's new proposals were forwarded to the state industries, Sir Peter Menzies, chairman of the Electricity Council, said the rate bill on power stations imposed an unfair burden on electricity consumers.
All the nationalised industries pay normal rates to local authorities on showrooms and offices, but rates on large plants are calculated differently and only a proportion goes directly to the authority in whose area they are situated.
In the current year, British Gas is paying £23.5m in rates on operational premises and a further £5m on offices and showrooms. Had the formula remained unchanged its rate liability on industrial premises would have risen to £27m, but under the new proposals it would have to pay £51m.
British Rail is also facing a substantial increase on the £5.2m it will pay in rates this year. The system is slightly different in its case as it pays a lump sum to the department in lieu of rates on tracks and installations on railway-owned property. It declined to say how much its rating bill would be under the new system.
London Transport will see its central rates bill rise from £4.75m to about £7.7m, while the British Waterways Board's bill will increase from £105,000 to £117,000.
A Department of Environment working party is also drawing up revised rating schedules for the National Coal Board, water authorities, the Post Office and the docks. These will be presented for consultation shortly.
Changing the rating system for the public corporations requires parliamentary approval and the Department hopes to have this in time to introduce the new formulae from April 1.

Rank-Xerox ends rental policy in UK market

By David Young
In a major change of policy Rank-Xerox (UK) has decided to sell its range of reprographic equipment at its lowest development, an advanced electric typewriter, on the United Kingdom market.
Previously the company sold its equipment only in very specialised markets, such as the Common countries—the Eastern European equivalent of the EEC—and has only rented in the United Kingdom market.
The change of policy, announced yesterday by Mr Hamlyn Orr-Ewing, the company's managing director, came on January 1. The announcement comes at a time when the Monopolies Commission is to report on the activities of the company in the British market.
The commission report will also be presented to Mr Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, and she will decide when it will be published.
It has been expected that the report will criticise the Rank-Xerox rental-only policy, and yesterday's announcement made for good commercial reasons, says Rank-Xerox—will head off any such criticism.
The policy of selling its machines will mean that Rank-Xerox will be able to supply machines to customers, such as some local authorities and institutions, which previously refused to accept rental agreements because of local policy decisions.
The policy also has the effect of opening up markets in the regional development areas. Previously rental agreements for copying equipment did not qualify for the various government financial concessions available to companies in development areas, but purchasing does, and up to 40 per cent of the retail cost of machines will in some cases be refundable by the Government.
Buying will also appeal to many companies because of the financial relief provisions of the Prices Code.
Rank-Xerox has set itself a target of achieving as much as a 15 per cent penetration of the reprographic equipment sales market in 1976, but its salesmen will now switch phasing away from rental agreements.
Mr Orr-Ewing said yesterday: "Our existing rental business will continue to be our main focus and will provide the major part of our revenue in the foreseeable future."
In the United States Federal Trade Commission forced the Xerox Corporation to offer licences on all its patents and to change radically its pricing policies.
£15.5m rights issue by BHM
British Home Stores became the second big store group in a week to announce that it was raising fresh capital when it unveiled a £15.5m rights issue yesterday.
The new shares are being offered on a one-for-eight basis at 28½p a share against a price on the existing shares of 38½p, up 8p yesterday. The new shares will be allotted to the firm's dividend, which the board is proposing to raise from 5.4p to 9.5p (gross) to give a full year total of 15.71p.
Financial Editor, page 21

Call for quick action on accounting charges

Financial Staff
At a conference on a new method of accounting yesterday, a new method of accounting was proposed by Mr Martin Gibbs of Drew, stockbrokers, but "Historic accounting has been tried and wanting. It should be as soon as possible," those speakers who addressed themselves to the issues rather than the likes of the matter were unanimous about would be introduced in a Gibbs was in favour of the Sandilands proposals further by incorporating elements of the CIP (cost charging power) system, in line with the com-

Lords ruling may ease export fears

In an appeal action, the House of Lords ruled yesterday that English courts in trade contract disputes can give money judgments in foreign currencies.
The ruling upheld an earlier Court of Appeal judgment in the case of Milangos v George Frank (Textiles). Mr Milangos, a Swiss merchant, can obtain judgment in Swiss francs in a suit he brought against the British textile company George Frank for non-payment of some 415,000 Swiss francs (about £76,100 at present rates) worth of yarn delivered to Frank in May, 1971.
Obtaining the judgment in Swiss francs means Mr Milangos will receive about 100 per cent in sterling, informed sources said.
A previous precedent ruled that a creditor is allowed only sterling equivalent of the sum due. Converted at the time of the contract, it would have received only £42,000. This is because a 10 per cent fall in the value of sterling since May, 1971, when the contract was made.
According to informed sources, the House of Lords decision may help British trade as it goes some way towards dispelling uncertainty over whether foreign creditors obtain in English courts judgments in the currency provided in their contracts.
Previously, foreign suppliers had feared that the downward float in sterling, combined with delays in bringing court actions, could devalue considerably any claims converted into sterling.—Reuter.

Curbs likely on Spanish steel imports

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent
Curbs on imports of cheap Spanish steel which are said to be upsetting United Kingdom steelmakers, are believed to be imminent. The imports are mainly steel reinforcing bars.
The Department of Trade appears to have accepted a case made out by Britain's steel industry against the Spanish imports. This move could involve anti-dumping duties. A request to the Spanish to restrain its level of exports to this country, takes place against the background of a serious recession in the international steel industry.
Britain's move comes at a sensitive time, for, in the measures needed to resolve the international steel crisis will take place in Paris under the aegis of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.
The aim in these discussions will be to help the industry without running contrary to the OECD trade pledge which is designed to avoid individual protectionist measures.
Reliable industry sources said yesterday that the steel imports from Spain were being sold at a landed price of about £88 a tonne—an estimate £35 less than the price of the same product being sold on the Spanish market—compared with the United Kingdom price of £120 a tonne.

New Jersey votes against bond issue

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Nov 5
Voters in the state of New Jersey yesterday surprisingly rejected the new issue of \$922m (about £446m) of state bonds. The result shocked Mr Byrne, the state's governor.
He and bond market experts believe they decided against the issue because of the financing problems in the neighbouring state of New York and the growing feeling that state and local authorities must now be much more careful about floating new debt.
The New Jersey decision, taken in a state-wide referendum, coinciding with elections, is the latest in a series of shocks which the municipal bond markets have had to withstand in recent months because of the New York City financial crisis.
Mr Edwin Buellman, senior vice-president of Bache and company, a leading Wall Street financial house, said that the general public had become "numbed and frightened" by the New York situation and much more reluctant to buy municipal bonds.
He stressed that bond rates should really be falling in the market, but that the money market rates, but "you have a panic situation and the municipal bond market is diminishing," rates were therefore continuing to rise.
As an example he pointed out that the "A" rated water department of the City of Los Angeles now had to pay 7 per cent on a new issue of \$60m of bonds, which compared to a likely rate of probably close to 6 per cent had the New York City crisis not arisen.
Mr Buellman said that every bond dealer today had a list of 10 or so municipalities which could find themselves in real trouble if New York City defaulted, but he declined to start naming names.
There is a widespread feeling in Wall Street that the state will not allow its major construction agencies to default on its bonds and notes this month.
The grave worry is that the state cannot continue bailing out all its agencies and municipalities without confronting bankruptcy itself.
Meanwhile, other major problem areas are dominating market sentiment. The upper New York State city of Buffalo needs to raise cash in the near future and its chances in the market are bleak, especially as the city's sewer authority had to pay a record 10.5 per cent on \$35m of notes some two months ago.
Such cities as Boston, Cleveland, Detroit, Philadelphia and Newark are also the subject of fears of speculation.
Mr Buellman said the public was clearly becoming much more selective about the quality of the municipal bonds it bought. The problems of some municipalities had been aggravated by local laws which prevented borrowing above set rates, such as 6 or 7 per cent.

Restructure talks on Lifeguard

By Margaret Stone
After talks with the Department of Trade on Tuesday, the board of Lifeguard Assurance, the latest insurance company to run into difficulties, yesterday issued a statement that the future structure of the company is under urgent review.
As a temporary measure the company has ceased taking on new business and has been given a fortnight's grace period by the DoT to solve its present financial problems.
The crux of the matter appears to be under-capitalisation after increased business and it is understood that more than £1m is required by way of capital injection.
The company, which was formed by Lloyd's members and brokers in 1964, has been discussing with its principal shareholders—including brokers firms such as Alexander Howden, Sedgwick Collins, C. E. Heath and Stewart Wrightson—its bankers, Samuel Montagu, and other insurance companies a solution to its problems.
There are five options open. The company can retain its present business and do nothing else; the existing shareholders can subscribe further capital; outside investors may put up the necessary money; a takeover from within the insurance industry could be arranged; or the company could be bailed out under the forthcoming legislation proposed under the Policyholders' Protection Bill.
Although there are no formal links between Lifeguard and Lloyd's, the close relationship between the founding shareholders of Lifeguard and Lloyd's adds a degree of urgency to the situation. The Committee of Lloyd's held its customary Wednesday meeting yesterday but did not issue a statement about Lifeguard.
Lifeguard's two subsidiaries, Investment Annuity Life and Safeguard Assurance—now Safeguard—were inadvertently reported yesterday as both included in the temporary moratorium on accepting new business. (Safeguard Motor policies at Lloyd's have no connection with Safeguard Assurance or Lifeguard Assurance.)
What went wrong, page 21

Flexible five-year programme

Continued from page 1
of "picking the winners", both Mr Healey and Mr Wilson were anxious to dismiss this as a misunderstanding of the Government's philosophy.
Mr Wilson said it should be seen as supporting the valiant and brave and the resuscitation of the wounded heroes.
Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, and co-author with Mr Healey of the Government's paper, stressed that the plan should not take the form of immutable concepts laid down by Government.
Rather all three interested parties should be in continual discussion. While planning agreements and the National Enterprise Board would be used extensively the fundamental importance of the approach lay with discussions at company and shop-floor level.
Mr Varley explained that the planning process envisaged by the Government would dovetail into the economic calendar, so that the five-year rolling programme would be considered by the NEDC well in advance of the Budget.
Leading article, page 15
Peter Jay, page 21
Text of Government document, page 22

TUC see 'industrial strategy' as first step

By Our Labour Editor
TUC leaders said last night that they accepted the need for "an agreed industrial strategy" but gave warning that the Chequers talks were only a first step towards meeting trade union demands for full employment and economic growth.
The TUC's big-man team, on the National Economic Development Council are to meet Mr Healey, the Chancellor, to review the outcome of the Paris economic summit, and are looking for a more detailed account of the Government's attitudes next month.
In a statement last night, the TUC said the unions fully shared the acceptance by all members of the NEDC of an agreed industrial strategy directed to the achievement of full employment, productivity and economic growth.
"We recognize that the strategy must be sufficiently flexible to allow necessary modifications, and that it must involve the use of selective measures to ensure that national priorities are achieved."
"One of the top priorities must be the restoration and improvement of manufacturing capacity, which will involve not only the massive creation of new capacity, but fuller and more effective use of existing assets."
After pledging this commitment to improving industrial performance, the TUC added: "This will also require the full use of the new instruments for industrial reorganization that are now being developed, such as the Manpower Services Commission, the National Enterprise Board and planning agreements, and the full involvement of trade unionists in their activities."
The TUC emphasized that it was their concern with the need to preserve Britain's manufacturing base that had convinced them of the need to impose selective and temporary controls on certain imports.
They also argued that "within the context of planning agreements and more generally, trade unionists should be more actively involved at company level in the problem of winning exports."
The unions reiterated their "deep concern" at the level of unemployment, and stressed that the response of trade unionists to the new initiatives towards an industrial strategy must be "concentrated above all by this factor."
Ministers shared the TUC's concern at "the present unacceptably high level of unemployment", and it was agreed that the TUC should meet Mr Beale after the Paris summit, when the TUC is likely to make proposals for reflation of the economy.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 151.34 +1.44
The FT index: 360.8 +1.9

Rises		Falls	
Bk of Ireland	20p to 350p	Letraset	5p to 47p
BP	15p to 590p	Martin-News	8p to 142p
Brit Home Strs	5p to 387p	Porter-Claud	4p to 48p
British Overseas	10p to 580p	Rank Org Ord	10p to 170p
Harrold Ind	10p to 35p	Smith WH	10p to 405p
Hoover	10p to 310p	Thomson Org	13p to 205p
Ischape	10p to 310p	Vickers	3p to 135p
Leeds	41p to 174p		

THE POUND		Bank	
		buys	sells
Australia \$	1.68	1.62	
Austria Sch	38.75	36.75	
Belgium Fr	84.25	81.25	
Canada Cdn	2.10	2.10	
Denmark Kr	12.65	12.25	
Finland Mks	8.10	7.85	
France Fr	9.25	8.95	
Germany DM	5.45	5.25	
Greece Dr	76.00	71.00	
Hongkong \$	10.55	10.15	
Italy Lit	1555.90	1500.00	
Japan Yn	359.00	325.00	
Netherlands Gld	5.40	5.40	
Norway Kr	11.60	11.25	
Portugal Esc	82.00	70.00	
S Africa Rd	1.51	1.67	
Spain Pes	126.75	121.25	
Sweden Kr	9.25	8.95	
Switzerland Fr	5.60	5.40	
US \$	2.11	2.06	
Yugoslavia Dnr	43.50	40.00	

Equities fell back on profit taking after a strong start.	Gold rose \$2 an ounce to \$146.25.
Gold-edged securities had a dull session.	Gold rose 1.18445 on Tuesday while SDR-E was 0.572530.
Sterling dropped 60 points to 2.0645. The effective devaluation rate was 29.3 per cent.	Commodities: Reuter's index was at 1147.5 (previous 1142.5). Reports, pages 23 & 24

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Canon Assurance facing lim by IOS liquidators

Canon Assurance, the Keyser subsidiary which was in 1972 from Venture in the wake of the of Mr Bernie Cornfield's Overseas Services, is claim from the liquidators of IOS in Canada.
Liquidators hold that the purchase price for the former life insurance company, formerly known as former Life Insurance, have been paid to IOS, Venture Capital. They are claiming a dividend of 500,000 which was paid to Venture Capital.
In the view of Canon Assurance, the new developments are "tiresome". It says the dispute between the liquidators of IOS and the liquidators of Venture Capital, which was also wound up, should pass over the company's head.
More worrying is the dividend claim, which might involve Canon in legal action.
When Canon was bought from Venture Capital, set up by Mr Robert Vesco to hold the sound components of IOS, the merchant bankers Keyser Ullmann took 51 per cent of the equity and Mr Edward du Cann, the former chairman of Keyser's,

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Paris problem for Post Office pension fund

Continued from page 1
In Argyle's development after its holdings ceased in 1973.
More recently, Argyle, now a major investment in the hands of business interests, has helped Slater, Walker disengage from the French property scene by taking over its substantial interest in Compagnie Financière Hausmann.
The pension fund has some other involvements with Argyle, including a £20m development mortgage loan for the five years from January 1, 1974.
Chairman and managing director of Argyle is Mr G. M. Rivkin, who personally handled the Grands Magasins development project negotiations.

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Slow growth forecast for 1976

Slow growth, accompanied by declines in consumption, are in prospect next year, according to all the main forecasting units. Inflation is expected to moderate slightly compared with this year, but will remain at the very high rate of about 15 per cent.

Only three units have changed their forecasts since last month. Most of the changes are minor. Phillips & Drew now expects 1.2 per cent growth in gross domestic product, compared to 0.8 per cent in October, while the Henley Centre now expects unchanged output.

The contrast between the Treasury's very optimistic forecast of exports in the first half of 1976 and those of the other units is now striking.

FORECASTS FOR THE BRITISH ECONOMY

	NIESR (Aug)	LBS (Aug)	H (Oct)	H & G (Oct)	P & D (Oct)	1st half 1976/2nd half 1975	Treasury (Apr)	NIESR (Aug)
Consumption	-0.8	-1.7	-0.5	-1.5	-0.4	1.7	1.0	
Private investment inc. housebuilding	-4.9	1.9	-3.4	-3.7	-1.3	-3.6	-4.9	
Public investment inc. housebuilding	-1.1	-4.5	-2.6	-0.1	-0.8	5.1	-0.8	
Public authorities consumption	3.3	2.5	-2.2	2.5	3.2	3.7	3.7	
Exports	0.9	3.5	2.8	5.6	3.0	10.0	2.2	
Imports	2.9	0.2	2.6	3.9	4.0	5.9	5.8	
Stockbuilding (£m) Year 1975	-45	-119	40	-144	40	-200	-292	
Gross domestic product after adjustment to factor cost	1.2	1.4	0.0	0.3	1.2	2.5	2.6	
Inflation forecast	14.1	15.4	17.2	14.2	16.5	—	12.8	
Balance of payments—current account deficit (£m) Year	582	1131	1150	-242	1600	—	746	

NIESR National Institute of Economic and Social Research
LBS London Business School
H Henley Centre
H & G Hoare & Co. Govett, as provided by data STREAM
P & D Phillips & Drew

All forecasts are in constant prices, seasonally adjusted and at annual rates. The stockbuilding and balance of payments is in £m. The first half 1976/second half 1975 forecasts are for the first half of 1976 multiplied by two. Stockbuilding is in £m. The Treasury, the NIESR and LBS are based on the assumption of unchanged policies. The forecasts by H & G and P & D assume changes in policy. For details readers should refer to original sources.

General forecasts are not completely comparable, but differences are minor. Differences in results also reflect differences in assumptions, model constructions and data at which work performed. The month in which work was published is given in brackets.

The Treasury published its forecasts with the Financial Statement and Budget Report, which usually appears once a year. NIESR and LBS revise their forecasts every quarter. H & G and P & D revise their forecasts every month.

Nuclearplant costs rise to £880m

By Roger Viovey

The cost of building four new nuclear power stations using the advanced gas-cooled reactor system could rise to £880m, according to new estimates prepared by the Central Electricity Generating Board.

Originally, the board had budgeted to spend £418m on the four AGR stations, the first of which should have started producing electricity in 1971 and the fourth next year. So far none of them is operational.

Most advanced is the Hinkley Point B station in Somerset which is due to start generating power next Spring, and contributing to the national grid about six months later. In 1966 it was estimated that the station would cost £95m and be operational by 1973. The latest cost estimate is £140m, making it the cheapest of the four stations.

Work is also in progress at the troubled Dungeness B station on replacing faulty insulation. Dungeness was the first of the AGR stations and should have cost £89m to build and started feeding power into the grid in 1971. The CEBG says it will not produce electricity until 1977 and will cost £280m.

The two remaining stations in the AGR programme, at Hartlepool and Heysham, have also been delayed by big design changes during construction. Hartlepool in 1968 was estimated to cost £32m and be ready in 1974. The cost has now risen to £220m and the commissioning date has been delayed until 1978.

Heysham did not start until 1970 and had the highest initial construction cost—£22m, has escalated by almost £100m.

Builders expect worse recession next year

By Malcolm Brown

Britain's builders expect the recession in the industry to get worse next year.

The latest state of trade inquiry from the National Federation of Building Trades Employers, published yesterday, said that 65 per cent of a cross-section of 650 firms approached last month expected to do less work next year than they did in 1975.

The report says the industry's workload is still dropping, that increasing number of firms are operating well below capacity, and that labour forces are being cut down.

Mr Ernest Smith, president of the NFBE said yesterday: "There seems little doubt that the recession is forcing more men out of work over and above the 172,000 registered at the last count in September."

What was needed was more

direct government help to create new work as quickly as possible. "By help I mean very substantially more than the £30m worth of short-term assistance announced by the Government last week."

The state of trade report shows that nearly two-thirds of those who answered had fewer inquiries now than in June, at the time of the previous survey. More than 20 per cent said they had many fewer, and only 13 per cent replied that they had more.

A particularly sharp drop was noted in inquiries for private industrial and commercial works and for public non-housing works.

More than 66 per cent of the sample approached are now operating at three-quarters of capacity or less, and this proportion is expected to rise to 75 per cent in six months' time.

Safety tests for N Sea oil platforms

By Our Energy Correspondent

Emergency inspections of the concrete test piping on the five offshore oil production platforms in the British sector of the North Sea are being undertaken after an explosion on a platform in Norwegian waters last weekend in which three men died.

The explosion was caused by unusually rapid corrosion of a similar test pipe on the Ekofisk "Alpha" platform according to the Norwegian Board of Petrol which carried out an intensive inquiry into the incident.

Three men died in an attempt to escape from the platform after the explosion. The inquiry revealed that the zinc concrete coating of the test pipe had been torn off the pipe at water level. With the metal pipe carrying high temperature crude oil, exposed to sea water and oxygen corrosion and fracture was rapid.

The Department of Energy yesterday wrote to the five operators of platforms in United Kingdom waters asking them to undertake immediate inspections of the concrete coating around the test pipes at water level. Safety experts in the Department are also considering making regular inspections mandatory of this area of the pipework under the regulations governing platform safety.

A second letter has gone out to the operators of all platforms and mobile drilling rigs in United Kingdom waters warning them that all crews members must be familiar with the escape procedures and that regular emergency drills should be held.

Shipbuilders seek 'buy British' aids

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

Britain's soon-to-be-nationalized shipbuilders are to sit down with leaders of the country's shipping industry to try to thrash out measures to stimulate the flow of British contracts into United Kingdom yards.

Discussions are to take place later this month between representatives of the General Council of British Shipping and the Shipbuilders and Repairers National Association.

Although the industry is to be brought under state control by next autumn, Britain's shipbuilders, like others around the world, need orders now in order to provide employment for thousands of workers when industry's existing order book is completed in about two years.

Shipbuilders argue that most other big nations support their domestic shipbuilding industries more than the British. While not denying the shipowner's right to build wherever the best terms can be obtained, the shipbuilders want to see more incentives to attract business to United Kingdom yards.

A number of possibilities will be discussed at the meeting, but it is likely that more attractive credit facilities for United Kingdom owners, changes in tax legislation, extension and improvement of the inflation insurance scheme, or a scrap-and-build policy.

Mr A. Ross Welch, president of the SRNA, earlier this week also suggested that yards should build new vessels for "stock". Yesterday Mr Derek Bibby, chairman of the Liverpool-based Bibby Line, expressed his worries about the continuing intervention of government in their shipbuilding industries which could only lead to over-tonnage of merchant fleets.

There were estimates, he said, that shipbuilding capacity could be reduced to a third of its present level and would not meet the shipping industry's requirements for the next decade.

Writing in his company's staff magazine, Mr Bibby doubted whether government would accept the social and political consequences of such widespread closures.

But while the established shipbuilding countries seek a way out of their difficulties, others are going ahead with plans to develop their own shipyard capability.

A consortium led by the United Kingdom shipyard consultancy company, A & P Apple-dore International, has won a contract from the Venezuelan government to provide technical assistance and assistance for the development of Venezuelan shipyards.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Machine tools: planning for remote controlled factories of the future

From Mr M. C. P. Hewitt

Sir, Two articles in *The Times* on Monday, October 20, make depressing reading. Depressing individually, more depressing jointly.

The first was a review by Kenneth Owen of the business radio report of British machine tool manufacturers. It is difficult to imagine that the problems faced by the 60 companies reviewed are all caused by bad management.

There must be some other more general reason for the inability of the machine tool industry as a whole to earn adequate returns on the capital invested in it. Leaving aside for a moment the feeling that returns generally in the mechanical engineering industry are not as high as one might expect and that the three years in question were not good for incoming orders, has one not to look at the machine tool industry's customers as the root cause of the malaise?

James Macbeath in the same issue in an article, "Tackling Shortage of Craftsmen", quotes NEDO inquirers who found managers looking for craftsmen ready to handle a set of machines chosen by the company without any regard for the workers who might use them. The impression here is

that machines had been chosen that could only perform effectively if manned by highly skilled experienced men and that no thought had been given to reducing unit costs by substituting capital for scarce labour.

Labour is not free from criticism. The skilled craftsmen show little interest in job enrichment. In a narrow sense, how can they? They are skilled because they do jobs that others cannot do and any job enrichment weakens their position by making them less specialized and, therefore, replaceable and the diminishing supply of these people is certainly influenced by the unwillingness of the younger generation to work in the dirt and noise of an industrial sium whatever the title and whatever the reward.

The common factor is, then, those who direct our engineering industry, who are out of touch with reality, who employ managers who are out of touch both in their labour relations and in their attitude to investment or is it more likely that successive governments have failed to provide the stability required for long term progressive planning?

Confining ourselves to the investment attitude, the British machine tool industry has provided British industry with the machine tools which were demanded and at a price that was considered competitive. Who is to criticize an industry for providing what its market requires if the alternative is to go out of business? The long term effects are, of course, that without adequate margins no new products will emerge and without newer products there will be no exports except to countries with similar production requirements and they will tend more and more to produce their own simple equipment.

We have to encourage investment in modern production equipment. We have to accept that there will be a diminishing supply of skilled labour. We have now to start planning for the factory of the future which will be substantially unmanned at shop floor level and where skilled men will use their skills to programme machines rather than stand by them in the noise and dirt of the workshop.

Yours faithfully,
M. C. P. HEWITT,
chairman, British Numerical Control Society,
Parvus House,
62 Floral Farm,
Canford Magna,
Wimborne, Dorset BH21 3AU

Case for selling energy in standard units

From Mr P. Caswell

Sir, In view of the need to save energy, why is gas still sold in therms and electricity in kilowatt-hours when if both were sold in the correct S.I. unit, kilojoules, comparison would be easier for the consumer?

Adding in the standing charges and allowing roughly 30 kilowatt-hours to the therm, over the last quarter my gas cost 16p a therm and my electricity 71p a therm—well over four times as much. Put another way, I can run a gas fire all morning for the cost of the equivalent electric fire for one hour.

Apart from selling energy in a standard unit, it would also help if a footnote to each account divided the total bill by the amount of energy supplied so that people were the more aware of costs. If the gas people can add a footnote giving the "fuel cost adjustment basis", it cannot be too difficult to program computers to add a "unit energy cost" figure.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL CASWELL,
Brighton College,
Brighton BN2 2AL,
October 30.

Worker cooperatives

From Mr R. P. B. Davies

Sir, Mr Denis Carter clearly believes in agricultural co-operatives but expresses his doubts about workers' co-operatives. Workers' co-operatives, in common with agricultural and other co-operatives, also need entrepreneurial initiative and even "animal spirits" in order to survive and serve the best interests of their members.

Some of the workers' co-operatives recently set up in the United Kingdom have shown considerable enterprise in the face of very difficult circumstances. When the promised Cooperative Development Agency has been established, there may be the possibility of further experiment in this co-operative sector.

What if co-operatives are considerably more numerous and successful in certain other

European countries. In France, over 500 workers' co-operatives exist, ranging in size from 10 members in large concerns of over 4,000 and are especially successful in radar and telecommunication. In Poland, there are more than 2,400 and in Italy 3,000 workers' co-operatives.

Within the International Co-operative Alliance, which is the only world body grouping all types of co-operatives, there are affiliated more than 40,000 workers' productive co-operative societies with 4.5 million members and total sales of over £3,500m.

Yours faithfully,
R. P. B. DAVIES,
General Secretary,
International Co-operative Alliance,
10 Upper Grosvenor Street,
London W1X 9PA,
October 22.

Q, an international measure

From Mr W. G. Bushbridge

Sir, Having read with interest the recent correspondence on "fuel cost adjustment basis", I would commend to your readers what strikes me as a really irrational (or should I say "international") unit. I refer to the quantity "Q" used in estimates of world consumption of energy.

It is, I understand, an American quiddition (10¹⁸) of British thermal units!

Yours faithfully,
W. G. BUSHBRIDGE,
35, Norman Avenue,
Abingdon,
Berkshire OX14 2HL,
November 1.

Capper-Neill announce 'substantially higher profits'

INTERIM STATEMENT

The Directors of Capper-Neill Limited announce that profit for the first half of the current year to 31st March, 1976, is substantially higher than that for the corresponding period last year. Equally, the increase in turnover reflects the overall performance in all sectors of the Group.

	Six months ended 30th September, 1975	Six months ended 30th September, 1974	Year ended 31st March, 1975
The unaudited results for the half year to 30th September, 1975 are as follows:—			
Turnover	£18,470	£11,245	£26,029
Group trading profit	1,021	612	1,630
Interest payable	146	111	222
Group profit before taxation	875	501	1,408
Taxation	440	267	651
Group profit after taxation	435	234	757
Amount absorbed by dividends	131	122	241

The Directors have declared an interim dividend in respect of the year to 31st March, 1976 of 1.287p per share which, together with the associated tax credit, is the equivalent of 1.98p gross. This represents an increase of approximately 10 per cent on the interim of 1.791p (gross) declared last year. Total dividends for the year ended 31st March, 1975 amounted to 3.6p gross per share.

The Board considers that the time is now appropriate to raise further permanent capital in order to provide the Company with the financial base required to continue its expansion both in the United Kingdom and abroad. It is proposed, therefore, that 5,076,205 new Ordinary shares be issued by way of rights to shareholders at 32p per share on the basis of one new Ordinary share for every two held.

The present financial year has seen a high level of order intake which maintained the previous very substantial order book of the Group. Furthermore, bookings to date are more than sufficient to maintain this year's planned performance, with much of this work reaching well into the following year.

The worldwide availability of steel, the basic raw material of the Group, has continued to improve and no longer restricts our trading activities.

Profitable trading continues with site construction activities providing a major contribution and with export trading steadily increasing its proportion.

Warrants for the interim dividend will be posted on 5th January, 1976 to shareholders on the Register at close of business on 28th November, 1975, 5th November, 1975.

Designers, manufacturers and erectors of pipework, storage tanks and process plant for industry.

**On stream
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with Capper-Neill
On site**

Inflation still the key to US recovery

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Nov 5

The United States economy has moved away from recession but Mr Sidney Jones, the Treasury's top economist, gave warning today that to sustain the recovery it was crucial that economic policies aim at controlling inflation.

Mr Jones's main fears clearly centre on the big rise in public expenditure, and in prepared remarks for a conference at Northwestern University, in Illinois, he made some predictions about the likely development of the federal budget and deficit.

He pointed out that during the past two fiscal years government outlays rose 30 per cent or \$101,600m (nearly £50,000m) and the total deficit for 1974 and 1975 together was \$44,000m.

He noted that the official estimate for this fiscal year's budget deficit was now \$70,000m, but that it was most improbable that the final figure would be below this and "there is a risk that it might be higher".

Liverpool docks seek labour cuts

A move will be made at next Tuesday's meeting of the Liverpool section of the National Dock Labour Board to trim the dock labour register by about 830 jobs to ease the financial burden created by the recession in the ports.

It comes from the Port of Liverpool Employers' Association, which is asking that a voluntary redundancy offer be made to the men.

Mr Lew Lloyd, district secretary of the Transport & General Workers' Union and this year's chairman of the local board, has confirmed that the issue will be discussed.

The offer, if it is made, could prove attractive for long-service men who would draw up to £5,256 severance pay. But the port is likely to be facing another prolonged bout of negotiation.

Japan asks for cheaper lending

Tokyo, Nov 5.—The Bank of Japan is asking commercial banks to lower average lending rates to around 8 per cent as soon as possible, a central bank spokesman said. This follows the one point cut in Bank rate to 6.5 per cent last month, the third since April, which brought the cut in the April and September to 1.5 per cent.

Latest figures show the average contracted interest rate for lending by city banks at the end of September was at 8.89 per cent, a drop of 0.678 since April. —Reuter.

Business to Business

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering obligations.

CONTRACTS & TENDERS

CENTRAIS ELÉTRICAS DO SUL DO BRASIL S.A.—ELETRUSUL (Subsidiary of ELETRONBRAS)

Salto Santiago Hydroelectric Project

Pre-qualification notice to suppliers of gates and associated equipment for diversion tunnels

Centrais Elétricas do Sul do Brasil S.A.—ELETRUSUL will invite bids from qualified manufacturers (selected by means of the Pre-qualification to which this notice refers) for the design, manufacture, supply and erection supervision of the following equipment for the four (4) Diversion Tunnels of the above-mentioned Project, situated on the Iguaçu River, State of Paraná, Brazil:

—thirteen (13) sets of guides and sole plates for concrete bulkhead gates;

—twelve (12) sets of guides, sole plates and a dogging device for the auxiliary wheel gates;

—one (1) set of guides, sole plates and dogging device for the downstream by-pass wheel gate of Diversion Tunnel No. 1;

—two (2) wheel gates (each 4.75m wide and 7.50m high) for the by-pass of Diversion Tunnel No. 1 (1 upstream and 1 downstream);

—eleven (11) sets of metal frames for concrete bulkheads (each set comprising 2 frames 5.30m wide and 7.90m high);

—two (2) metal frames for concrete bulkheads (each frame 5.30m wide and 7.90m high);

—two (2) hydraulic hoists and associated equipment (each with 90 ton capacity and 8.0m stroke) for the Diversion Tunnel No. 1 wheel gates;

—one (1) tower (about 30m high) with operating platform for the associated equipment of the hydraulic hoists for the Diversion Tunnel No. 1 wheel gates.

The total weight of the equipment to be supplied is estimated at four hundred (400) tons.

For the payment of the above equipment, ELETRUSUL expects to have available funds from the Interamerican Development Bank—IDB through financing which is now being negotiated.

Participation in the present Pre-qualification will be limited to manufacturers with headquarters in member countries of the Interamerican Development Bank and/or countries considered eligible by the financing agency.

The "Instructions for Pre-qualification Proposals" will be available to the applicants until December 8, 1975 at the following address:

CENTRAIS ELÉTRICAS DO SUL DO BRASIL S.A.—ELETRUSUL
DEPARTAMENTO DE SUPRIMENTOS
Rua da Alfândega, 80 - 2º andar
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BUSINESS NOTICES

ATTENTION ALL INDUSTRIALISTS

Interested persons, known or unknown, are invited to submit information on the following subjects to the Industrialists' Association, 100, Strand, London, W.C.2, 01-235 2868.

PERIODICALS WITH PROFIT HISTORY WANTED

Mr. P. R. Smith, London, W.1, is seeking periodicals with profit history for sale or lease. Write to him at the above address.

Mr. N. W. Freeman has resigned from the board of Albright & Wilson following his retirement as Chairman of Tenneco International.

Mr. B. C. Ryan has become a director of Cold Fields Ltd, a subsidiary of the British Petroleum Group.

Mr. W. H. Ireland has been made a director of Gresham Investment Trust, a holding company of Gresham Ltd.

Mr. Gordon Curtis, general manager of the London offices and

GOVERNMENT PAPER ON INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

Foreword by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Industry

The British people faces immense short-term economic problems in unemployment, inflation and the balance of payments deficit. These problems have arisen at regular intervals throughout this century, though rarely in a combination quite so intractable as at present. The exceptional difficulties of Britain's position in the economic recession which grips the whole world are due in large part to the poor performance of British industry since the war has been steadily deteriorating under successive governments in comparison with its competitors. So while we tackle immediate problems, we must also get to grips with the long term weakness of British industry and relate short term solutions to the requirements of this task.

The task we face is nothing less than to reverse the relative decline of British industry which has been continuous for many years. It is not something we can achieve overnight. The future benefits will only come in the long term. But we must start the process now.

The attached document sets out the Government's proposals for developing a long term industrial strategy. We believe that such an approach to an industrial strategy must satisfy two conditions. First, it must be realistic and flexible. Our proposals involve a careful analysis of the performance of individual industries which will be continuously adjusted as experience grows and circumstances change. Second, it does not itself constitute a strategy: it provides a flexible framework within which strategic decisions can be made. Second, it does not itself constitute a strategy: it provides a flexible framework within which strategic decisions can be made.

The first results of this approach were reflected in the Government's recent measures to encourage investment on a selective basis. The measures to help investment were chosen after the sort of sectoral analysis which is set out in this paper. They are moreover related to the problems immediately ahead, since they are primarily intended to remove obstacles to the growth of some of our key industries as the world economy recovers. We shall keep the effects of these measures under review and we shall not hesitate to take any further steps that may be necessary, consistent with our overriding objective of restoring inflation. As we begin to develop a new industrial strategy we shall increasingly be able to plan our short term measures within a longer term industrial strategy so that short and long term measures reinforce one another.

Paper by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Industry

Our prime objective must be to achieve a high output-high wage economy. This can only be achieved by improving our industrial performance and raising the growth of our productive potential.

Our unsatisfactory economic performance since the war reflects a large part our failure to deal effectively with our industrial problems by comparison with our competitors. The Government is introducing powerful new instruments to tackle these problems. These include particular planning agreements and the NEB. These, and the other weapons in our armoury, must be used in a co-ordinated effect unless we have a soundly based strategy for manufacturing industry.

We need such a strategy also as a guide for the future. In some sectors of industry the pressures of international competition will force some shedding of labour. In others, technological improvements in productivity may mean that as modernization proceeds, the same or a larger output can be produced with a smaller labour force. It is therefore essential to develop a coherent industrial strategy so that action can be taken in a co-ordinated way by Government and companies to expand capacity and increase employment in sectors with good prospects, or in others make a defensive action where this is necessary. Manpower policies like training, retraining, and encouragement to mobility must be geared to this strategy.

The National Economic Development Council has held a series of discussions about the need for more effective industrial planning. At the August Council meeting the Government undertook to produce a paper setting out its approach to industrial strategy which could then be fully discussed by all the parties. This paper sets out the approach which the Government considers likely to be the most realistic and fruitful. It is not a strategy but a programme for developing a strategy which will place responsibility on Government, on unions and on management for improving our industrial performance.

Background

Manufacturing industry accounts for about 30 per cent of our output and employment and over 50 per cent of our visible exports. Its health is of vital importance to our national economic performance. Our manufacturing industry has not done as well as its competitors. In particular it has not responded adequately to changes in the pattern of world trade and suffers from structural rigidities which show themselves particularly in bottlenecks both of man-

Need for collective effort towards a high output-high wage economy

power and components in the early stages of economic upturns. The reasons for our poor performance have been exhaustively analysed and discussed, not least in the Council and the Economic Development Committees. There is no universal agreement on them. Some important factors, such as over-valued exchange rate and excessive international responsibilities, may now be less serious. Others, such as a limited supply of labour for manufacturing industry to draw on are bound to affect Britain more deeply than some of her competitors. But whatever weight may be given to one or the other, the main cause of our poor performance is clearly related. They are thought to include:

- (i) a low rate of investment
- (ii) inefficient use of capital, which has resulted in a relatively poor return on new investment
- (iii) poor choice of investment

Labour

- (iv) inadequate development of a manpower policy and the consequent regional and sectoral shortages of skilled labour
- (v) low labour productivity reflecting poor management, inadequate consultation, restrictive practices, overmanning and disruption by industrial action
- (vi) inadequate provision of training and labour mobility hindering the ease with which people can change jobs. The problems these are discussed in the paper
- (vii) inadequate provision of training and labour mobility hindering the ease with which people can change jobs. The problems these are discussed in the paper

Government

- (viii) sharp and frequent changes of economic regulators to meet the conflicting needs of economic and social priorities, which make it difficult for companies to plan ahead
- (ix) pre-emption of resources by the public sector and by personal consumption to the detriment of industry's investment and export performance
- (x) Government intervention in the pricing, investment and employment policies of the industrialized industries.

Finance

- (xi) a declining rate of industrial profitability
- (xii) imperfections in the capital markets mainly at the medium and longer term ends
- (xiii) a capital market which does not give priority to the needs of industry.

United action

There is no reason to believe that the problems will be solved automatically. Indeed, international factors are likely to make these more difficult—as the development of some of our manufacturing capacity, their increased competition from low cost producers, and pressures both on our terms of trade and the security of supply of our foodstuffs and key raw materials.

Elements of an Industrial Strategy

It will be impossible to tackle these problems without the co-operation of all parties concerned, Government, management, unions and the financial sector. We must therefore build up a co-ordinated strategy for industry on a long term basis. Such a strategy must involve:

- i. the better coordination of policies affecting the efficiency of industry. This will require us to identify the industrial implications of the whole range of Government policies and to build back of information from planning agreements with companies will be of particular value in this respect
- ii. the more effective use of the instruments of industrial policy and the deployment of financial resources to support the strategy for industry on a long term basis. Such a strategy must involve:

- i. ensuring that industry, both public and private, is able to secure sufficient profits on its investment to spur management to expand and innovate and to provide a sound basis for financing on which to base investment. Adequate sources of external funds are also vital; some action can be taken in the National Enterprise Board and some through Finance for Industry, but it will also be essential that the market should be able to meet the needs of industry.
- ii. a more effective manpower policy, including measures to provide a better supply of skilled labour for growth industries and to cope with the human problems of people transferring from contracting to expanding industries. Training and retraining will be crucial here, both in coping with the problems of the present recession and in building up people to meet the needs of a re-oriented British industry. The MNC and its agencies will be particularly important in this respect.
- iii. the improvements in planning, both in industry and by Government, which will flow from a co-ordinated strategy. A strategic discussion of the likely prospects of individual industries, allied to greater disclosure of information at company level, particularly but not exclusively in planning agreements.

Business appointments

Equity and Law's new director

Sir Henry Fisher has been elected a director of Equity and Law Life Assurance.

Lord Balfour has been appointed a director of Sun Alliance and London Assurance, and of its principal subsidiaries.

Mr. N. W. Freeman has resigned from the board of Albright & Wilson following his retirement as Chairman of Tenneco International.

Mr. B. C. Ryan has become a director of Cold Fields Ltd, a subsidiary of the British Petroleum Group.

Mr. W. H. Ireland has been made a director of Gresham Investment Trust, a holding company of Gresham Ltd.

national rate of growth through regenerating our industrial structure and improving efficiency. For the strategy to be successful, it will mean giving priority to industrial development over consumption or even our social objectives. There is no one factor of developing the industrial base on which the Government's whole programme of economic and social reform depends. The Government will have to ensure the proper co-ordination of macro-economic and micro-economic policies since success will depend on a complex variety of factors needing support at national, industry and firm levels. We recognize the need to maintain an adequate level of demand and employment if both sides of industry are to possess the confidence required to carry the necessary changes through.

Main responsibility

The Government must take the initiative in developing the industrial strategy. It is the responsibility of the Government to ensure that it brings higher productivity in British industry must fall on unions and management. Any major increase in productivity will require not only more investment better directed, but also improvements in working methods, including the removal of overmanning and restrictive practices, and by transfer of workers into expanding sectors. This will require a co-ordinated effort of the Government, industry and management, together with effective co-ordination of the various agencies involved. The ease with which people can change jobs. The problems these are discussed in the paper

The use of the industrial framework

This analysis is not in itself an industrial strategy. It is a starting point for the development of the Government's own industrial planning and a framework for discussion and action by the Government and by business. The use of the industrial framework at national, industry and company level. At each level, the objective must be to tackle the problems identified in paragraph 5 above, which lie at the root of our inadequate industrial performance since the war.

i. National Level

At this level, there is a wide range of Government policies affecting industry. Industry will want closer consultation on medium-term prospects. We have made a start here by circulating to NEED the main components of the Government's industrial strategy and we shall be ready to consider ways of carrying this further to complement the discussion of sectoral prospects which will take place on a regular basis as indicated in paragraph 25 below.

Major objective

For the Government's policies to operate effectively Government should act to assess their effects on individual sectors of industry and take account of these effects in policy formation. The proposed medium-term industrial framework will help by providing an analysis of the factors which affect the prospects for individual sectors, including the impact of possible changes in the Government's general economic policies.

More flexible

This time a more flexible approach is proposed. We aim to provide a framework in which to consider the most important sectors of industry over the next five to ten years ahead and to indicate their role in meeting our overall economic objectives. In developing this approach it will be essential to take full account of likely developments in world trade and in the competitive position of British industry relative to other countries; the effects of EEC membership, and in particular of the removal of internal tariffs, will be important here.

The framework

The first step is the provision of a systematic statistical and analytical framework. Although this can ultimately be broadened to include other useful information, including work currently in hand in the National Economic Development Office, we need initially to rest on two main elements:

- (i) An analysis of past performance of individual sectors of manufacturing industry based on a number of statistical indicators such as sales, growth rate, trading performance, import content, growth of world demand and importance to other key sectors.
- (ii) The implications for different industries and sectors of alternative medium term growth assumptions, using as a starting point the Government's medium term plan.

The Government will make an initial assessment on the basis of this statistical framework, taking

full account of a wide range of qualitative factors, such as the scope for improving on past performance, the potential for import substitution, the development of new technologies, the minimum economic size of plants, the security of future raw materials supplies (for example our self-sufficiency in energy in 1980), the impact of EEC membership and the scope for Community action, the emergence of new overseas competitors and industrial objectives and policies of other Governments.

The aim will be to identify those sectors most important for achieving our economic objectives both for the Government's purposes and for those of private industry. This will entail a sector by sector analysis to identify those which are likely to have most potential and those which may be expected to present problems. The most important industries will first be grouped in the following way: industries which, judging by past performance and current prospects, are intrinsically likely to be successful in the future. Industries which, though they fall short of the first category, have the potential for success if appropriate action is taken; industries whose performance (as in the case of component suppliers) is most important to the rest of industry.

Root causes

It is of course clear that any industry can contain sub-sectors and individual firms whose prospects may be better or worse than the industry as a whole. Indeed some of the biggest disparities in performance at present are found within particular sectors rather than between them.

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Sector restructuring

At the level of the firm, the Government will seek to provide support where this is justified in individual cases. It will also provide support for the restructuring of individual companies, primarily through the NEB and the Manpower Services Commission.

iv. Procedure

As has been made clear, the Government views the development of an industrial strategy not as a continuing and evolving process, with arrangements for regular review after the initial discussion stage.

In a normal year the Government envisages that the operation would move through three stages in the following lines. First, in the late summer, material would be put to the NEED which would consist of three main parts:

- (i) A paper identifying the most important sectors grouped in accordance with paragraph 14 and indicating the reasons for their selection for this purpose. As the 30 or so sectors would have been chosen primarily for their potential for growth, it is unlikely they will change significantly from year to year, although as experience develops, it may be possible to add further criteria for selection. Nonetheless the Government

Coherent form

When these proposals have been put into practice, the Government would be in a position to examine the problems of a wide range of industries and companies against a coherent framework. In playing its part in helping to deal with these problems the Government will use the whole range of its powers. It will be able to frame its general economic policy so as to take account more systematically of the needs of industry. The NEB will be able to provide finance for companies in key sectors. Selective financial assistance will be used to encourage and assist viable projects and the sectoral discussions should enable appropriate schemes, like those already adopted for the furrows, foundries, machine tools, clothing, and textile industries to be developed. Public purchasing policies will be used constructively to order to develop the export potential of appropriate industries. The MNC and its agencies will have a major role to play both in meeting the needs of growth sectors for suitable trained manpower and in easing the problems arising from industries shedding labour.

Mitchell Cotts Expands South African Mining Equipment Interests

The Directors of Mitchell Cotts Group Limited announce that a conditional agreement has been signed for the purchase from Eastern Produce (Holdings) Limited of the entire issued share capital of Robert Hudson South Africa (Proprietary) Limited which it is intended will be owned by Mitchell Cotts Group's 80% owned South African subsidiary Mitchell Cotts Limited, to whom it will be assigned at cost. Consideration for the purchase, which is subject to the necessary consents and approvals, will be approximately £2 million payable in cash.

Robert Hudson South Africa (Pty) Ltd. is principally involved in the manufacture and sale of underground machinery (including railway equipment) for the mining industry, but also has interests in the distribution of agricultural machinery. The Company has net assets exclusive of goodwill of approximately 3.4 million Rand and envisages pre-tax profits of the order of 1.4 million Rand in the current year to 31st December 1975.

Mitchell Cotts Limited has, through its existing subsidiary Fraser & Chalmers Equipment (Pty) Limited, extensive involvement in the supply of surface equipment to the mining industry, and it is considered that the new acquisition will closely and effectively complement these activities.

labour and capital resources should be efficiently used in the public as well as the private sector. Just as they will be brought into the planning agreements system, the nationalized industries will come within the scope of the strategic planning process. This will, for example, enable the long term plans of the nationalized industries and their suppliers to be related to each other and to the whole industrial framework. But since most of the nationalized industries are utilities rather than manufacturing industries, most of them are not, with the notable exception of steel, likely to feature in the grouping of paragraph 14.

These detailed discussions are likely to throw further light on possible constraints to improved performance and on the industrial implications of the Government's economic projections and decisions. They might also lead to specific recommendations for action by companies, trade associations and Government. However, the analytical framework should provide the Government with a basis for determining priorities for action in specific areas of particular importance to the economy, within the inevitably limited resources available.

At this initial stage of development, the timetable for consultations must be treated flexibly. As explained above, the preparation of a sound industrial strategy entails a good deal of work, because much of it is breaking new ground and requires the application of considerable resources to develop techniques. However, the aim is to produce an experimental analysis for consideration by the Council early in the New Year. After discussion in the Council, the detailed examination at sectoral level could begin at about the middle of next year when revised medium-term projections should become available. If we are to deal with these problems the establishment of any additional groups that may be necessary will need to be set in hand quickly.

Effort required

None of this would in any way prevent or inhibit discussions in the Council or the EDCs at other times of the year on issues related to industrial strategy or the particular aspects of industrial performance. But it would provide a framework which would relate NEED's main discussions on industrial strategy to the Government's own timetable. This would not preclude separate discussions with trade associations or similar bodies.

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expects that the Council will wish to comment on the criteria chosen for any one of the sectors listed. These would contain figures, where available, for the appropriate economic size of plants, the security of future raw materials supplies (for example our self-sufficiency in energy in 1980), the impact of EEC membership and the scope for Community action, the emergence of new overseas competitors and industrial objectives and policies of other Governments.

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6-2227-2228-2229-2230-2231-2232-2233-2234-2235-2236-2237-2238-2239-2240-2241-2242-2243-2244-2245-2246-2247-2248-2249-2250-2251-2252-2253-2254-2255-2256-2257-2258-2259-2260-2261-2262-2263-2264-2265-2266-2267-2268-2269-2270-2271-2272-2273-2274-2275-2276-2277-2278-2279-2280-2281-2282-2283-2284-2285-2286-2287-2288-2289-2290-2291-2292-2293-2294-2295-2296-2297-2298-2299

otoring

actice is the y to towing avan safely

In the summer of the Road Association for special driving for people who tow caravans missed by the caravan industry and of rubbish, and it appears as a move would not be just the accident figures.

so, the number of touring on the roads increases steadily by year, and there is concern all drivers make themselves with the techniques of towing they set out on a journey of several hundred miles.

Caravan experts are probably as they say that towing is a matter of practice and common sense. I took advantage of a demonstration staged by one leading caravan manufacturers at Hatching this week to collect

as obvious differences driving a car by itself and a caravan attached to the extra width, and the additional width should not be a big y, since most caravans overlap eage family saloons by 12 to 18 inches on each side; more as the fact that the caravan is as long again as the

length of the car plus caravan icularly crucial in overtaking, ically comes in here as well, d from the car on its own will where. The weight of the car- e felt, too, on corners, as a y to pull at the car.

best advice about towing a is to drive smoothly and care- voiding sudden acceleration, uering or fierce braking, and, farther ahead than usual. An a factor in safe driving is ative weight of the two: ideally the car should be in roughly the ratio of 4 to 3 ice the risk of jack-knifing.

the maximum speed, which may be towed 50 mph, is ble only if the kerb weight ar is greater than the weight caravan including its fittings; e the limit is 40 mph.

suitable car for towing the caravan would be one the weight of, say, a Ford Cortina, and 1800 cc. engine. It is usually recommended for ing without stiffening the on, while cars with automatic ion should have an oil-cooler e gearbox. The reason is vehicle is likely to stay in ars longer than usual, and ing is perhaps the trickiest arning towing and newcomers ounded to practise a few a quiet spot before venturing ng run. Basically the thing to er is to steer the car in the e direction to the course iled. Most caravans are eed with device that auto- ly releases the brakes as the e being reversed.

ere are some 350,000 touring is in use, compared with only three years ago and in 1965. The most popular w costs between £1,200 and 1,800, is possible to go as £800 and as high as £2,500 if on to the basic comforts (beds, is, stove, sink and lavatory) require central heating, a hot



Lively and sure-footed—the Honda Civic 1500.

water system and a deep pile carpet. Caravanners say the biggest advantage is not cost but flexibility: if it rains in one place you can simply drive on to another. Perhaps surprisingly, more retired people are taking up the hobby, when they might be thought to prefer hotel comforts. All of which is by way of a curtain raiser to the International Caravan and Camping Show which opens at Earls Court, today.

Road test: Honda Civic 1500

Honda is technically the most ambitious of the Japanese car makers and the little Civic with its alloy engine, front-wheel drive, all-independent suspension and rack-and-pinion steering is a European car when it arrived on British roads two and a half years ago. The superb taut handling and precise steering was a refreshing change from the general run of Japanese cars, and there was good performance and fuel economy to be seen against the two main drawbacks of a hard ride and small boot.

That was the 1200 version. A bigger Civic has since become available, 51 inches longer at just over 12ft, with four doors instead of two and the engine capacity raised to 1488cc. The extra length means a little more room in the back, and the Civic will just take a couple of six-footers without pushing the front seats too far forward. The boot is still poor, less than half the capacity of the Volkswagen Golf's though the cars are almost identical in overall length. The Golf, again, has the advantage of a full tail-gate and folding rear seat; while the Civic offers only a small boot-lid.

There can, however, be little argument about performance, economy or handling. The lively overhead-camshaft engine, in conjunction with a manual gearbox, gives a 0 to 60 mph acceleration time of under 13 seconds and a maximum speed of about 90 mph. The automatic version, tested, is a few seconds slower over the first few hundred yards but once in its stride pulls strongly away and has such good flexibility that I rarely needed to change down for quick overtaking.

The Honda's automatic system offers a choice between "normal" and "low" forward gears and is semi-automatic in that instead of a kickdown, the low gear must be selected manually. It is a very smooth transmission, costing an extra £90. There is some fuel economy compared with the manual box but 23 to 35 mpg is hardly cheery and the car will run on low octane fuel.

As for handling, the Civic is the sort of car that can be pushed hard round corners with hardly a trace of roll and the minimum of understeer; road-holding is excellent. The steering is light for parking and very accurate on the move. Some drivers might find the self-centring a little too sharp. Though the brakes, dual circuit with discs at the front, are servo assisted, I found them liable to fade.

The handling is achieved to some extent at the expense of the ride, which can be harsh over anything less than a perfectly smooth surface. The sporting type of driver will probably not mind too much but it may not suit people who travel badly. There can also be a good deal of tyre thump.

Mechanically the car is quieter than the 1200, though the engine sounds busy over about 50 mph and wind noise increases steadily at the same speed.

I found the driving seat reasonably comfortable, visibility good and the controls handily placed. The heating and ventilation system is unusually effective for a small car. The floor is carpeted but the seats have only a plastic trim and the interior displays a fair amount of bare paint.

As usual on Japanese cars, though both Ford and Leyland have been catching up fast, there is a full standard specification, including radio (medium waveband only), heated rear window, radial tyres, revolution counter, reversing lights, adjustable outside door mirror, head restraints and a cigarette lighter. Recent price rises have made the Civic less good value than it was a few months ago but at £1,725 the 1500 Automatic still compares well with other British opposition and is markedly cheaper than its nearest Continental rival, the Golf.

Dazzling headlights

If Mr Gilbert, the Minister for Transport is feeling bruised by the hostile reception to his proposal about using headlights at night in all conditions the might do well to reflect on the fact that the controversy is not new.

Consider the following report from *The Times* of a few years back. Headed "Dazzling Headlights: Cause of Many Recent Motor Accidents", it began: "The difficulty of dealing with headlights, one of the worst with which the motorist is faced, has again been brought into prominence by the number of accidents which have taken place recently at night and several of which have been attributed to this cause."

The report observed that the practice of motorists with powerful headlights varied. "Many drivers, out of consideration for other users of the road, switch off dazzling headlights as another car approaches. The complaint is not always reciprocated. Other motorists decline on principle to dim their lights, believing that to switch off temporarily is not safe."

The view of the RAC was that the possible risk of accident through dazzle was less than that involved by switching off headlights. The AA, however, said it was very difficult to give a definite ruling to cover all cases, and the matter was left to the judgment of the driver.

The report concluded: "Sir Henry Maybury's committee, which is considering the question of lights on vehicles, has reported that the prevention of dazzle under every condition and circumstance is at present unattainable consistently with a safe driving light, although it is possible materially to restrict dazzle below the eye level of an adult observer walking or driving towards a headlight."

Although the AA and RAC have since changed sides in the argument, much of the report could have been written yesterday. In fact it appeared on January 3, 1972, and I am grateful to the reader who drew my attention to it.

Peter Waymark

adcasting

anging views of what the medico thinks is good for us comprise three entaries. They should themselves make a welcome change from all that out his pay (BBC1 10.15). Before that the Mastermind quiz exerts its weekly tion (BBC1 8.30). Spike Milligan is an acquired taste but the team for comedy series includes such old favourites as Robert Dornier and ones (BBC2 9.0). The Browning Version, with Michael Redgrave as r-Harris, is Rattigan's celluloid classic of the public school (BBC2 9.30). and Hardy in their Bohemian frolic provide the afternoon film (ITV 4.25).

BBC 2

On the Move, 12.30
Byrd, 12.55, News, 5.15 pm, Open University: Use Your Head 2, 6.40, Adventures
in the Rain, 7.05, Open University: Women in the G.U.
7.30 Newsday
8.15 Explorers
9.00 Captain Jack
9.00 Spike Mangan
9.30 Film, The Browning Version, with Michael Redgrave
10.00 News, 10.30, News, 1

